

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Concerns and Objection to Proposed Changes in Education Legislation
Date: Monday, 11 March 2024 11:26:39 AM

Dear Committee Secretary,

I trust this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concerns and clear objection to the recent proposed changes to the education legislation, specifically the suggestions to mandate adherence to the Australian Curriculum and the inclusion of the phrase "in the child's best interest."

While I understand the importance of standards in education, I firmly believe that these proposed changes may have unintended consequences, particularly for families engaged in home education. My objections are twofold:

1. Mandating Adherence to the Australian Curriculum:

The proposal to mandate the following of the Australian Curriculum raises concerns about the flexibility and individualized approach that home educators currently enjoy. Home education has thrived on its ability to tailor learning experiences to meet the unique needs, learning styles, and interests of each child. A rigid adherence to a standardized curriculum could compromise the very essence of home education and limit the diverse learning paths that families choose.

2. Subjectivity in the Phrase "In the Child's Best Interest":

The inclusion of "in the child's best interest" is worrisome due to its subjective nature. Determining what is in the best interest of a child is a deeply personal and family-specific matter. Imposing such a subjective criterion may be perceived as an overreach into parental decision-making, challenging the rights of parents to determine the most suitable educational path for their children.

In light of these concerns, I kindly seek the committee's support in working to understand the home education community better. The importance of preserving and improving the option to home educate is paramount, and I encourage the committee to engage in meaningful consultation with parents and caregivers who provide their children with an education through home education.

I propose that through open dialogue and collaboration, the committee can gain valuable insights into the diverse needs, values, and preferences of the home education community. This collaborative approach will contribute to the formulation of policies that respect the rights of parents and caregivers to make informed decisions about their children's education.

I appreciate your attention to these concerns and trust that the committee will consider the potential impact of these proposed changes on the home education community. Your support in fostering understanding and open communication is crucial for the well-being and autonomy of families engaged in home education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Belinda Cullen
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