

## Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 7  
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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Home Education: Flexibility is Vital for High-Quality Learning  
**Date:** Monday, 11 March 2024 11:58:28 AM

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Dear Committee,

I am a homeschooling mother with a professional background in primary education. I am writing to express my serious concerns about the proposed legislative changes which would require home educators to follow the National Curriculum (ACARA).

Forcing home schoolers to follow ACARA does not guarantee high quality learning. Resources, methods and expectations which are aligned to ACARA are designed for the classroom setting, where an educator teaches a large number of children at once. On the other hand, home schoolers can closely follow their children's needs and interests. For us personally, this means my children are sometimes working ahead or behind their 'grade level' in certain subjects – but always at their individual pace. As a home educator, I can provide them with just enough challenge, and the support necessary to progress.

We also enjoy learning together as a family. Recently, the children have worked together to carry out science experiments about plants. They have gone on nature walks, identifying the reproductive structures in a variety of plants and looking for pollinators. Together, they have learned about explorers, enriched by the hands-on experiences of baking damper, finding bush tucker and building water filters. Obviously, I differentiate this learning for a range of ages, but the richness of learning together as a family is far more valuable than if each child was to follow separate ACARA outcomes for every subject. Being bound to ACARA would make it impossible for me to facilitate the same quality of learning experiences. Instead, we would simply be 'ticking boxes' – and rushing to do it, as four children would all have different boxes to tick.

As home educators, we can access some of the best educational programs in the world. We can choose those programs which best fit our children's learning styles and needs. Our family utilises outstanding writing, spelling and world history programs from America. Why would the government want to restrict families from using quality educational resources, just because they do not align with ACARA?

As our children move into the high school years, we can strongly tailor their learning program to fit their interests and career goals. Once again, being forced to align to ACARA would diminish the scope for this.

It also needs to be considered – some families come to homeschooling not by choice, but because they are left with no choice. What about the many families who have left the school system due to their children not receiving adequate support for their disability or learning difficulties? What about the children who were completely disengaged? If this curriculum could not meet their learning needs in the school system, why would you use it to guide home education? Furthermore, what about families who leave the school system due to unaddressed bullying? If a family is traumatised, why would you burden them further by requiring they follow a document full of education jargon?

As home educators, we are already required to submit educational plans and report annually. We already need to prove that our children are receiving a high-quality education. If this legislation is truly concerned with Queensland children receiving an excellent education, then it will not restrict our flexibility to deliver this.

Finally, I urge you to consider the significant sacrifices we make to homeschool. I have given up my career, and our family lives on one income. The fact that we make these sacrifices demonstrates our deep commitment to ensuring our children receive a high-quality education. We don't need to follow ACARA to deliver this. We are already determined to deliver it ourselves.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Sarah Kilpatrick

Homeschooling parent and registered teacher in Queensland

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