

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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To Di Farmer and committee members

I would like to express my opinion and concerns over the proposed changes to the education act in regards to homeschooling.

I am a mother of 3 home schooled children and have been active within the homeschooling community for 3 years. This is a community who are very involved with their children and make great effort to understand, support and guide these children in so, many different ways to ensure they live happy and successful lives.

It concerns me greatly that you intend to decide what denotes a quality education by simply forcing everybody to follow the Australian curriculum. There are a multitude of reasons why parents choose home school, many of these being that schools do not meet their children's needs. So why would we remove our children from a broken system that clearly does not give a quality education to then replicate the same broken systems in our homes?

You are clearly trying to strip the parents' rights and free choice of where and how they educate their own children without justification. We already do yearly reporting of our children's goals, accomplishments, plans, and areas of improvement.

If you had spent time with any of the amazing families within our community you would have no doubt that their children are thriving and have so many talents, gifts and skills which are being cultivated every day. Instead of putting all children in a box and giving them a cookie cutter education you could spend some time looking at all the evidence there is now, that clearly shows that self-directed learners within the homeschooling community become highly successful adults. My children are thriving in the homeschool setting and are actively involved in many learning opportunities which they have chosen and remain committed too. By forcing parents to follow the Australian Curriculum instead of the systems they use in their own families which are clearly working you will only push them to de register their children and remain under the radar.

There are major flaws in the Australian curriculum, and it is only designed to 'educate' 25-30 children per class per session. At home there are smaller ratios, and more time is spent engaged in deeper levels of learning.

The inflexible nature of a 'one size fits all' curriculum hinders children's abilities to critically think, to follow their own interests/talents and does not consider those with learning difficulties. By increasing the requirements, you are penalizing a group of parents who have gone through the processes needed to remain registered and submit thorough reports. This is a group of parents who have often times had to significantly reduce their incomes, self-fund all their learning requirements and had to support children through tough times after school trauma. We are heavily involved in our children's day-to-day activities; know how they learn best and choose to keep them at home to raise them ourselves.

- Please provide clear evidence that the Australian Curriculum is the only way to receive a quality education.
- Please provide clear evidence that children in the homeschooling environment are not receiving a quality education. And whom decides this based on what.
- Please clearly state why and how you know my children better than I do, and how you know their needs, learning styles and capabilities.

I look forward to your reply and know it would be in your best interests to get to the know the homeschoolers you choose to dictate to before bringing in legislation that affects them not you.

Regards

Nina Linhares