

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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11th March 2024

Committee Secretary
Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Changes to Homeschooling Legislation

Dear Committee Secretary Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes in homeschooling legislation, particularly the requirement to follow a specific curriculum. As a concerned citizen, I strongly believe that there is an urgent need for more flexible schooling options that prioritize the diverse needs and interests of students, rather than adhering to an outdated and irrelevant curriculum. Where is the evidence that the Australian Curriculum is more beneficial than the current government-approved plan I have tailored to suit my child's learning needs, approved through the Home Education Unit?

The current Australian Curriculum is admitted by teachers themselves to be overcrowded with content, the burnout rate of teachers is high as they face overwhelm and exhaustion at the pressure of keeping up with the curriculum. The absolute benefit of home schooling is giving our individual children the care and attention they need to thrive and grow, to cater to their unique learning styles, interests and abilities. This is a pleasure teachers cannot afford, and I wish to retain the right to decide what education pathway is right for my family. Since embarking on our homeschooling journey, I have witnessed a remarkable transformation in my child's attitude towards education. The personalized learning approach we have adopted has reignited their passion and confidence for learning,

something he had lost after a year in public schooling. Rather than merely memorizing facts and figures, my children are actively engaged in exploring topics that spark their curiosity and pursuing knowledge in a way that resonates with them personally. Enforcing the Australian Curriculum will directly impact my ability to individualise learning to best suit my children's needs.

Through homeschooling, my children are not only acquiring academic knowledge but also developing essential life skills and values that are essential for success in the real world. They are learning how to think critically, communicate effectively, and adapt to new situations, actively preparing for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. I urge the committee to explore alternative schooling options that offer greater flexibility and autonomy in curriculum design and delivery. By providing more choices for families and educators, we can create learning environments that are better aligned with the diverse needs and aspirations of students.

In conclusion, these proposed changes would not only undermine the fundamental principles of homeschooling but also limit my children's ability to learn and grow in a way that honour's their individuality and creativity. As a homeschooling parent deeply invested in my children's education, I urge the committee to reconsider these restrictive measures and instead focus on supporting families in providing a rich and diverse educational experience tailored to the needs of each child. I personally get no government funding for the task I choose to undertake with love every day. All I ask is for my right to choose what is right for my family. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Kristy Nivison.

Homeschooling parent