

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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

11/03/2024

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed changes to homeschooling policies, particularly the suggestions to mandate homeschooling children to follow the Australian National Curriculum and imposing onerous reporting requirements on all subjects. This will undoubtedly have detrimental impacts on my family and, more importantly, on my children's ability to receive a high-quality education through homeschooling. It's important to note that homeschooling families already have access to the Australian National curriculum. Families can choose to utilise some, part, all, or none of it in their educational approach. This flexibility is fundamental to the essence of homeschooling, allowing parents to tailor their children's education to their unique needs, interests, and aspirations.

Furthermore, the suggestion to mandate adherence to the Australian National Curriculum overlooks the diverse approaches and resources utilised by homeschooling families. As a dedicated home educating parent, I implore the committee to undertake more extensive consultation with homeschooling families before moving forward with these changes. The proposed changes represent a significant oversight of the skills, capabilities, dedication, and knowledge that home educating parents bring to their children's education. We are deeply invested in our children's academic success and well-being, and it is disheartening to see our voices marginalised in the decision-making process.

As homeschooling parents, we have seen firsthand the detrimental impact of this pressure-cooker environment on our children's mental health and well-being, and we understand the unique needs and learning styles of our children better than anyone else. We have carefully crafted educational experiences that prioritise individualised learning, critical thinking, and personal growth. 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—all skills that will serve them well beyond the confines of a classroom. Moreover, homeschooling allows my children to actively participate in the world around them, gaining practical experience and insight that simply cannot be replicated in a traditional school setting. Whether it's volunteering in the community, pursuing hobbies and interests, or engaging in real-world projects, they are actively preparing for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Homeschooling allows us to create an environment that nurtures

their individual strengths, fosters their curiosity, and instils in them a love for learning that extends far beyond the confines of a classroom.

Moreover, homeschooling provides a sanctuary for our children—a safe and supportive setting free from the pressures and pitfalls of bullying that often plague traditional school environments. In this nurturing atmosphere, they are free to explore, experiment, and grow into confident and compassionate individuals.

Homeschooling empowers parents to teach their children how to learn, not just what to learn, laying the foundation for a lifetime of intellectual curiosity and personal fulfillment.

As these home-educated children grow into adulthood, they continue to make significant contributions to society, enriching our communities with their diverse talents, perspectives, and values. As a homeschooling parent, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to nurture my children's love of learning and to prepare them for the complexities of the real world through personalised, holistic, high- quality education.

The proposed changes threaten to undermine our ability to provide the high-quality education that our children deserve.

Instead of focusing on mandating adherence to a specific curriculum, I urge the committee to reconsider its approach and to prioritise collaboration and engage in meaningful consultation with homeschooling families to ensure voices are heard and concerns are addressed to find constructive solutions that benefit all stakeholders involved. Together, we can work towards shaping effective policies that support and respect the diverse needs of homeschooling families while ensuring the well-being and educational success of our children.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and look forward to your response in writing.

Sincerely,
Nakita White

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