

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Changes to Homeschooling Legislation
Date: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 8:29:26 PM

Dear Committee Members,

I am an adult homeschool graduate, writing to reject the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation, particularly the inclusion of the Australian National Curriculum, extensive reporting requirements, and the ability for the Home Education Unit (HEU) to request reporting during periods of non-registration.

I strongly oppose the inclusion of the Australian National Curriculum in our legislation. Other states manage perfectly well without it being listed in their legislation, and its addition could have serious consequences for homeschooling families. By mandating adherence to the national curriculum, we risk being taken to court if it does not suit the unique needs of homeschooled children. As my homeschooled peers and I look forward, we compare our personal experiences with that of what we wish for our own children. We value the flexibility to tailor our future children's education to their individual interests, learning styles, and abilities. My own education included early access to university subjects that were well beyond the level of the senior syllabus. By age 18 I had completed 6 uni subjects alongside my homeschool studies, which would not have been possible if I had been expected to adhere to the grade level progression of the Australian National Curriculum. Imposing a standardised curriculum would undermine the essence of homeschooling and limit the educational opportunities available to us.

The proposed requirement to report and show educational progress in every subject area is burdensome and intrusive. Homeschooling parents already invest significant time and effort in creating personalized learning plans for their children. I remember the stress my mum was in trying to compile plans and reports for three children, and you're looking to add further expectations to this! Mandating extensive reporting would detract from valuable learning time for students. Furthermore, the ability of the HEU to request reporting during periods of non-registration is a gross overreach of power. People need time to transition from traditional schooling, especially if their experience was traumatic, and this provision would only exacerbate the challenges they face.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to reconsider these proposed changes and to consult properly directly with homeschooling families to understand their concerns and perspectives. Homeschooling offers a unique and valuable educational experience that should be respected and supported by legislation. Let us retain the autonomy to provide our future children with the education they deserve, free from unnecessary restrictions and oversight.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Please redact any of my personal details before public viewing.

Sincerely,

Natalya Smith

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