

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 80
Submitted by: Casey Smith
Publication:
Attachments:
Submitter Comments:

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Opposition to Educational Bill
Date: Monday, 11 March 2024 11:54:34 AM

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you with great humility and concern regarding the proposed changes in legislation regarding home education, being put forward by the Minister of Education and Youth Justice Dianne Parmer.

My partner and I consider homeschooling our two young children an incredibly serious responsibility and take great pride in the academic achievements our children have accomplished.

Whilst homeschooling is structurally different to formal classroom based educational settings, we do not see this as valid rationale for the changes proposed.

Adopting ACARA aligned resources, methods and expectations into a homeschool setting appears to be a peculiar proposition: firstly, because parents learning plans are already subjected to approval by HEU; secondly, it removes basic human freedoms for parents and children to choose the methods of learning; and thirdly, would seemingly assume that parents are equally equipped to facilitate learning content that qualified teachers spend years learning how to teach. I cannot help but think this is an unreasonable expectation for parents, a fairly narrow view of how young people learn, and perhaps even an insult to professional teachers and the time and money they have committed to achieve their qualifications.

We (as many homeschooling families) follow an interest or project lead learning style. This enables deep learning in an area of particular interest. This is particularly difficult to facilitate when ticking boxes off a curriculum.

Further, we choose to home school due to one of our children being neurodiverse. In truth, we have already tried the Australian Curriculum and it just doesn't work for us. As parents of a neurodiverse child, we have sacrificed much to try and work through the school system, one cost being our child's mental health. Now we ensure we provide a high quality of education that is adapted to suit the learning styles of our children. Forcing our family and others to adhere to something that, through experience, we know doesn't work feels like we are being mandated to knowingly harm our children's well-being and future.

My hope is that the above adequately conveys our concerns as responsible parents. The changes proposed have raised many questions for us as I'm sure it has for many others in our position. Some key curiosities we have are included below:

Can you please provide us useful links to the research studies that you have conducted to determine that,

a) the legislation that you are proposing is in the best interest of the homeschooling community,

b) that the current model of registration, reporting and legislation for homeschoolers is inadequate,

c) that adequate consultation has taken place with appropriately qualified experts in education and members of the homeschooling community to determine that this is needed and in our best interest?

Sincerely,
Casey Smith

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.