

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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To whom it may concern

I may not be an expert in legislation and politics but I have years of experience in homeschooling. There are a few concerns with the new bill. Lets use an example. A family is forced to take their child out of school (perhaps abuse, perhaps bully, the list is endless). Right now the family can apply for a prov. homeschooling certificate, get an extension to the yearly plan, say for 4 weeks. This is a good thing. The family can take some time to figure things out and come up with an achievable plan. Your new bill will not allow that. They would have to come up with a plan straight up.

Your bill also forces us to follow the Australian curriculum. Homeschoolers do not want to do school at home. I don't believe the school system is changing fast enough to keep up with the world's changes. I am from Switzerland and our school system is by far superior. In fact, world wide there are many countries with a better system. So, what if I want to follow a better system? The new bill actually prevents me from doing that. I also wonder what happens to the Steiner School and Montessori Schools? Would they be allowed to continue? They do not follow the Australian Curriculum.

Right now we have to show improvement and a high quality of learning. I think that is important, yet that has been removed and replaced by demonstrating that homeschooling is the best option for the child. We all know that homeschooling rates have doubled. Perhaps it is the school system that needs to change to avoid so many leaving rather than making homeschooling more like school. What the members of the parliament really should be asking is "what can we do to increase the number of schooled children. Why do so many families switch to homeschooling?"

Below is a summary of the concerns I have, in order of concern.

Kind regards

Dr. Nicole Kenyon

Implementation and the big issues (IN SHORT) of what the Bill wishes to impose
Guiding principles: Who defines suitable? In regards to "choosing a suitable educational environment" <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why additional conditions are set on home educating families?• Why are school and home Ed students not afforded the same principals FOR ALL - EQUALITY?
PLAN: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Everyone will be required to use the national curriculum in some way.- Everyone will need to report on the national curriculum across all subjects.- Does this afford enough provision for all areas? Religion? Diversity? How will a stated single curriculum meet all these differences? (Then.... Impeding on family values, cultures, etc)- University is not included as an option.

- How is “be consistent with” the national curriculum going to be interpreted?
- The issue is the interpretation of this is broad and could be anything- but it’s absolutely going to mean more work for us and for HEU.
- What do parents whose kids have already completed the entire curriculum do?

Reporting with evidence on all subjects is way too much work for both US and HEU

PLAN & REPORT:

- Control for plans and report content taken away from HEU and into the hands of politics/legislation.
- Must plan and report to the national curriculum.
- More work reporting on ALL subjects in plan.
- Must do math and English at all grade levels including year 11/12
- How is “be consistent with” going to be interpreted?

Consultation was minimal, biased towards businesses, and missing key points in this Bill

They are asking for reporting and educational progress outside of registration periods.
Overreach!

We would potentially need to prove/report on safety and wellbeing.

Reduction in the show cause response time to 14 days.

This is hard as families that get these need MORE time to learn how to provide appropriate responses and no help or training is provided beyond volunteers in the community.

No certificate anymore. Newly named “notice”, equivalent to our yearly approval letters.

Centrelink will be able to see any conditions imposed on rego, and may only grant temporary exemption from looking for work because of this.

60-day provisional is No longer available.

Full Rego application needs to be immediate even if you know it's only going to be for a short time.