

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 110
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Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members, 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 homeschooling parent, I firmly believe that these changes would undermine the very reasons why many families, including mine, have chosen homeschooling as the preferred mode of education for our children. The essence of homeschooling lies in the freedom it affords children to learn in a manner that aligns with their individual interests, abilities, and learning styles. By imposing a mandated curriculum, these proposed changes would impede my children's autonomy and hinder their ability to pursue education in a way that best suits their needs. One of the primary motivations for homeschooling is to provide our children with a personalized learning experience that fosters their intellectual curiosity and allows them to learn at their own pace. These new regulations threaten to restrict this flexibility and stifle their natural inclination to explore and discover the world around them. Furthermore, enforcing a standardized curriculum fails to recognize the diverse interests and talents of homeschooling students. It overlooks the fact that every child is unique and may thrive in different subject areas or learning environments. By imposing rigid educational requirements, we risk depriving our children of the opportunity to pursue their passions and develop their full potential. Our decision to Home Educate was not made lightly and was necessary for the spiritual and mental wellbeing of my children. We take the responsibility of providing a quality education very seriously and spend many hours planning, adapting, and finding new opportunities to prepare them to be successful members of society. In fact, my oldest child has just re-entered the school system to complete her senior education and it is evident that her knowledge is ahead of her fellow peers. Her entrance exam results were one of the top and she has just completed her first science assessment and received 100%. Throughout her homeschool years we did not follow the structured curriculum set by ACARA but provided her a variety of learning opportunities and developed many skill sets that set her up for future success which is now evident in her school results. Part of her Maths curriculum this term included budgeting. My daughter was taught this 12 months ago when she began work and by the end of the year will have cash savings to purchase her first car, a majority of her fellow peers didn't even understand what the word budgeting meant. This highlights that by not following the Australian Curriculum hasn't failed my daughter, in fact it has empowered her to be more than ready for her next level of study and future career. In essence, 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 honors 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.

Thank you for considering my concerns.