

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 120
Submitted by: Taryn Powell
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I am a long time home educator that has been enrolled with the Home Education Unit for over a decade. I have five children, two that are still enrolled with the HEU. My eldest is a fully qualified carpenter, the second is currently at USC completing a degree in Clinical Exercise Physiology and the third is currently on a "gap year" running her own cleaning business as she decides what to do next. We are not, as the Courier Mail would have you believe, some crazy cultists denying our children a great education. We are constantly in the community with many who meet my children remarking on their mature and confident manner and their ability to converse with all aged people. The latest proposed changes to the Education legislation being considered by the committee disturb me greatly. The clause "be consistent with the national curriculum" is very wide in interpretation and not as the Hon Di Farmer on her dramatic FB post says "Getting home education students to follow the Australian Curriculum." What will this look like in practice? Many people have started home educating because the National Curriculum was not working for their family. You'll no doubt have many submissions from these families. By forcing them to follow something they have deliberately walked away from is ludicrous. My second greatest concern is with reporting. I certainly feel that being asked to report on 8 KLA's for each child enrolled will dramatically increase the workload for home educators and the HEU as well. Will they really be able to assess everybody's reports? They are chronically understaffed as it is. And if they go to a model in other states whereby only 10% of reports are assessed as a general overview then this is a grave insult to Home Educators - "You need to write a much more detailed report, but we may not even read it." This is time that would be better spent on actually teaching our children. My third concern that I will highlight is that the consultation for these changes was minimal. Two years ago we were asked to fill in a survey from the HEU and they were told overwhelmingly that adherence to the National Curriculum was definitely NOT what home educators wanted. Once again an insult to Home Educators to be asked for their opinion and then have it set aside for what seems to be a fait accompli. Please consider this proposed legislation carefully. I feel that by making it more difficult for home educators you will actually increase the number of people going unregistered. You will also push those unable to comply with the new legislation back into schools - the very schools that they couldn't cope with in the first place and hence why they are home educating. Consultation was minimal, biased towards businesses, and missing key points in this Bill