

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 141
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Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you to express my strong concerns regarding the proposed changes to require home educating families to follow the National Curriculum as outlined in the *Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024*.

As a home educating parent, as well as an experienced teacher, I believe the proposed changes will have a damaging impact on my children and all those in the home educating community.

Through my teaching experience, I have witnessed the limitations of the Australian curriculum in meeting the diverse needs of students in a traditional classroom setting. The one-size-fits-all approach fails to adequately accommodate individual learning styles, stifles creativity, does not adequately account for the diverse backgrounds and needs of ALL students and at times, can ultimately diminish the transformative potential of education.

In my time as a classroom teacher, I became increasingly disgruntled with the constraints imposed by the National Curriculum. The rigid structure left little room for me to inspire and engage students in a way that truly fostered a love for learning. This frustration led me to explore alternative educational models for my own children, leading me to home education.

Home education, with its flexibility and personalised approach, provides a transformative and inspiring learning environment. It allows parents to tailor a curriculum to the unique needs and interests of each child, creating a dynamic and exciting educational experience that goes well beyond the confines of a classroom and surpasses the standards set by the Australian curriculum.

My husband and I have both made many personal sacrifices over the past six years in order to home educate our two children and while this has meant that we have often had to make financial and professional compromises, we have had the privilege of being able to foster our children's growth in a way that realises their full potential, develops their unique passions and honours their individuality and creativity. This is setting them up to have successful careers and happy and fulfilling lives, so that they can in turn be empowered to make a positive difference in society at individual, community and global levels.

As a homeschooling parent deeply invested in my children's education and well-being, I can confidently say that I am providing them with a challenging, engaging and high-quality education that exceeds the limitations imposed by the National Curriculum.

I believe that mandating home educators to follow the Australian curriculum would not only hinder the potential for transformative learning but also overlook the vast benefits of personalised education. Home education has the capacity to ignite a passion for learning, nurture critical thinking skills, and foster creativity in a way that standardised curricula cannot achieve.

I encourage you to consider the invaluable role that home education plays in providing a personalised and inspiring learning experience for our children. Instead of imposing a one-size-fits-all approach, let us explore ways to support and enhance the transformative power of education through flexibility and personalised instruction.

Please take into account the voices of home educating families and the unique nature of their educational choices when making decisions that will impact their children's learning experiences and happiness. It is vital that the educational landscape continues to evolve in a way that best serves the needs of our children and the future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response and to further dialogue on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Michelle van Dugteren