Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by:

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Submitter Comments:

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Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee Parliament House George Street, Brisbane, Qld, 4000 eetsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Members,

RE: Concerns Regarding Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendments Bill 2024

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes to the amendments to the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, particularly the requirement to follow a specific curriculum.

As a Home Educator, I firmly believe that these changes would undermine the very reasons why many families, including mine, have chosen to home educate. Home education isn't a one size fits all system. Home educated children are offered a personalised, uniquely designed and individualised program that is reviewed and updated throughout their learning journey. And if this Bill is passed, this tailored approach would be lost.

The essence of home education lies in the freedom it offers 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 and subsequently would not provide them with a high-quality education.

Furthermore, enforcing a standardised curriculum fails to recognise the diverse interests and talents of home educated children. It overlooks the fact that every child is unique and may thrive in different subject areas or learning environments using a variety of diverse resources / curriculum. Hence, if the Australian National Curriculum and mainstream learning pedagogy suited my children, they would either be in school or in distance education. By imposing rigid educational requirements, we risk depriving our children of a high-quality education, because any program that doesn't stipulate that it is an approved Australian National Curriculum program is omitted, even though it could suit the child perfectly and deliver a better outcome. How is this best practice?

These proposed changes are asking for 'high-quality education' that is 'consistent with an approved education and training program'. How is the current approach, whereby the educational program is thoroughly researched, developed and specifically tailored for the child by the Home Educator not meeting this criteria?

These proposed changes regarding the enforcement of the Australian National Curriculum would not only undermine the fundamental principles of home education but also limit my children's ability to have a high-quality education.

As a Home Educator deeply invested in my children's education, I urge the committee to reconsider these restrictive measures and instead focus on retaining the current approach, which provides a rich and diverse educational experience tailored to the needs of each child.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and consider my concerns.

Sincerely,

Home Educator