

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

As a homeschooling mother of a neurodivergent child, I would like to express my concerns about the bill put forward on the 6th of March 2024. This bill requires us to follow the Australian curriculum and report on further subjects than we do currently. With the removal of provisional registration my son would have suffered further trauma being kept at a school which could not cater to his diverse needs and have a profound impact on his mental health. We did not take this journey into homeschooling lightly given the impact it has on our family's earning capacity. If this bill passes through with the proposed changes to homeschoolers having to adhere to the Australian curriculum it will stifle many of us and our children. Home education as it stands gives us the freedom to follow our child's needs and interests which helps us families enrich our relationships with community and each other. I urge you to leave home education alone, we have a strong sense of community and our children's best interests at heart.

To the committee members,

As a homeschooling mother and strong advocate for my child I object to the changes made to home education in the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Bill 2024.

My objections relate to the removal of provisional registration as this is vital to children like my son who needed to be removed from mainstream school to ensure his mental health. The changes in this bill would not have allowed me to remove him as soon as the decision was made with the blessing of his school principal. Many children like him need the time to destress after having to cope in a system that does not cater to his needs.

I am also concerned about the need to follow the Australian curriculum contained within this bill. This will stifle the creativity and interest led learning that happens with homeschooling and increase the demands placed on neurodivergent children.

My son is autistic with a demand avoidant profile (Pathological Demand Avoidance) and school was a very real struggle for him. We live a very low demand life with him which is allowing him to thrive and gain confidence. I will not be able to provide that for him if I must follow the Australian curriculum making him learn about things that are not of interest or even relevant to him.

There are many children like my son who need flexibility in their schooling. He is one of many who do not thrive in mainstream education yet do not qualify for special school which leaves homeschooling as our only option.

This has been a huge sacrifice for us as I am unable to work part or full time to help provide for our family given the cost-of-living crisis we as citizens of this great state and country are now facing. We do not need the burden and stress of following a curriculum not suited to our beautiful neurodivergent children.

Yours sincerely,

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