

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed amendments to the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. Specifically, I DO NOT support the requirement for home educated students to follow the Australian curriculum.

As a parent who home educates a child with additional needs, I firmly believe that these changes would undermine the very reasons why many families, including mine, have chosen home education as the preferred mode of learning for our children. The biggest benefit of home education lies in the freedom it affords my child to learn in a manner that aligns with his interests, abilities, and learning styles. By imposing a mandated curriculum, these proposed changes would impede my child's autonomy and hinder his ability to learn in a way that best suits his needs. Mainstream school and the Australian curriculum could not cater to his needs, so enforcing the curriculum on us at home basically defeats the purpose of home education in the first place.

My son was enrolled in a Queensland Government State School from prep to the beginning of Year 4. Over these years it became glaringly obvious that the current curriculum and education system (delivery of material, discipline etc) just does not suit many children, specifically, my child. My son has ADHD, severe anxiety and Ehlers Danlos Syndrome so he requires several adjustments to be a successful learner. It feels like there has been little to no regard given to neurodiverse children or those with other disabilities in this proposal. A large percentage of children currently home educating are in this position because the Australian curriculum and the Government led Education System has let them down. Now they will be having their individualised, high quality learning opportunities taken away from them only to be replaced by an uninspiring, outdated curriculum that does little more than prepare them for standardised testing rather than living in the world as a contributing member of society.

Furthermore, enforcing the Australian curriculum fails to acknowledge the diverse interests and talents of all home educated 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 their individuality, opportunity to pursue their passions and develop their full potential.

These proposed changes would not only undermine the fundamental principles of home education but also limit my son's ability to learn and grow in a way that suits his specific needs. Obviously, I am deeply concerned about the effect this will have on his anxiety and self-esteem having to revert to a system not suited to him. As a home educating parent whole-heartedly invested in my son's education and wellbeing, 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 your time and consideration.