

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 167
Submitted by: Sarah Rossic
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: See attachment
Submitter Comments:

As a home educating parent, I am concerned about some of these proposed changes.

One particular concern is about the parts underlined in *Amendment of s 217 (Standard conditions) (1)*
Section 217(1)(b)— omit, insert— (b) the educational program used for the child's home education must— (i) be suitable for the child having regard to the child's age, ability, aptitude and development; and (ii) be consistent with an approved education and training program; and (iii) provide the child with a comprehensive course of study in a diverse range of subjects or learning areas; and (iv) include subjects or learning areas that are the study of English and mathematics; (ba) a parent of the child must give the chief executive a written report— (i) for the period the child is registered for home education; and (ii) in relation to each subject or learning area that is part of the educational program used for the child's home education

To date, thousands of home-educated children have moved into successful careers without having completed curriculum consistent with an approved education and training program. Some examples of Australian children who may not be where they are today if not for a 'tailor made home-education program' are Jett Lawrence, Jessica Watson and of course Bindi and Robert Irwin. Personally, I have fond memories of dancing around the classroom with my then best friend Sacha Wakelin. She left school in grade 4 to be home-educated whilst aspiring to become a professional ballerina. Sacha went on to join the Royal Academy of Dance. Two of my own children have moved into successful careers after completing non-approved training programs during the most part of their schooling years.

However, it's not just gifted children who require a tailor-made program. Many parents choose to use a 'mastery' style Maths program to help their children who may struggle with having numerous concepts thrown at them in a single year. Such mastery programs also help children, who excel in maths move up the grades sooner than their peers. One program in particular is Math-U-See, which is a proven success. **Would this choice, which sits outside Queensland state schools' 'spiral maths method' approach be consistent with an approved training program?** Ultimately, home educating parents want to know whether or not National Curriculum will be enforced if the new bill passes.

Also, reporting on every subject within a pre-approved program is unnecessary and unreasonable. The Home Education Unit already have a fair reporting system in place where two work samples from English, Maths and one of choice, but different from the previous years' report is provided. Reporting on every subject, as required within an 'approved program' is going to encroach on the time-frame needed to home educate two or more school aged children.

For education to be inclusive of ALL students it is important to understand the reasoning behind why parents choose to home educate. Please consider the fact that countless amounts of such parents have actually sacrificed a second income for their family plus a career of their own in order to ensure their children grow into honest, trustworthy, hard working members of society. **Will a program containing curriculum that supports Judeo Christian values, as derived from the Westminster System of Government be excluded from this new approval system?**