

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 201
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Submitter Comments:

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, in particular Clause 68 and the inclusion of Section 7(da).

Over the past 2 years as a homeschooling parent, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that individualised learning plans have had on my children's education and overall well-being, especially compared to their time at school.

Reverting to a rigid, one-size-fits-all learning plan as the mandated Australian Curriculum (the "approved education and training program") will be met with disinterest and hence stifle their curiosity, love of learning and academic progress.

As a side issue, the expected increase in reporting requirements will not only take away valuable education time from my children, but also increase the workload of the Home Education Unit. Where is the benefit of this change?

In regard to Section 7(da), I am a bit perplexed to read that only "home education [...] should be provided in a way that – (i) is in the best interest [...] and (ii) ensures [...] a high-quality education."

Who defines "best interest" or "high-quality education"?

My concern is that this addition to the Act can easily be misused by individuals or authorities to stop families from choosing to home educate their children. Is this the reason why this addition only applies to home education, but not for "the State, parents, teachers, school communities and non-government entities"?

In my opinion, by allowing children to be taught differently from the mainstream, fostering their interests and talents, home schooling provides a pathway for Australia to stay creative, innovative and competitive in an ever changing world.

I urge you to consider my concerns and remove Section 7(da) and the requirement to follow an "approved education and training program" in Clause 68.

Thank you,
Christian Greten