

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 221
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Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

While I appreciate the intention to ensure access to a high-quality education for all children, I must respectfully express my concern about the potential limitations that the changes to the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, and this alignment imposes. For example, if I were to align one of my child's studies with the Curriculum it would have hindered his tertiary entry into the Sciences at the age of 14, and his current intentions and pathways to be an impactful change to the Sciences in Australia. His important trajectory in learning, which is tailored to his unique abilities and interests (and is currently approved by the Home Education Unit), we both feel would jeopardise and delay his future if he was made to conform to a standardised curriculum as per what the changes to this Bill propose to make. For my other Home Educated child, if I were to align her studies with the Curriculum as this Bill proposes, she would not presently be studying at 11 years of age for Piano exams for Music with AMEB, the Australian Music Examinations Board. Had I aligned her learning with a standardised curriculum, she would have not picked up a significant musical instrument (except the Recorder and vocals) until Grade 5 onwards, and her innate talents and personal abilities would have been unrecognised. Her education including in Maths and English remain compliant with the current HEU framework. I firmly believe that every child deserves access to a high-quality education, but this does not necessitate uniformity in educational approaches. Each child is unique, with distinct learning styles, interests, and talents. It is essential to recognise and celebrate this diversity by providing avenues for personalized learning experiences that align with each child's individual needs and aspirations. I believe my children's story, and like many other successes in Home Education, should be seen as such as this celebration of the diversity and innovation that Education Queensland is achieving in their vision statement of "a progressive, high performing education system realising the potential of every student". Home Education does provide each child with the ability to 'realise the potential of every student', however, making it a requirement for Home Education to follow a standardised curriculum, WILL NOT. I welcome the opportunity to further discuss this matter with you. Please feel free to reach out to me at your convenience. Your consideration of my perspective is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your attention to this important issue. Sincerely, Noela Dowling HEU Homeschool Parent