

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Reconsidering Homeschooling Legislation: Addressing Real Issues
Date: Monday, 11 March 2024 3:11:41 PM

Dear Committee Members ,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express some concerns regarding the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation. As stakeholders in the homeschooling community, it's imperative that we engage in a thorough examination of the real issues prompting families to opt for homeschooling rather than simply enforcing rigid curriculum requirements.

It has come to my attention that the proposed changes primarily focus on mandating adherence to a standardized curriculum without delving into the underlying reasons why many families choose homeschooling in the first place. This approach fails to address the core issues at hand and risks further alienating homeschooling families from the educational system.

It's crucial to acknowledge that homeschooling is often chosen by families for a variety of reasons, including dissatisfaction with the traditional schooling system, concerns about safety and bullying, religious or philosophical beliefs, or a desire for more personalized and flexible learning experiences tailored to individual student needs.

Rather than imposing stricter regulations, I urge the committee to prioritize understanding and addressing the root causes of homeschooling trends. This entails listening to and considering the feedback from homeschooling parents, who are directly impacted by these legislative changes. Their insights and experiences are invaluable in shaping effective policies that support the diverse needs of families while ensuring the well-being and educational success of children.

As a parent of a neurodivergent child, we have spent countless hours consulting with numerous specialists and allied health experts to determine how to best educate our child. We have liaised tirelessly with her former school to try to implement these recommendations. Unfortunately, what my child required was just not able to be achieved by their school. My child learns best with a project-led learning style. This enables him/her/them to become deeply immersed in an area of interest and this will often cross at least 5 key learning areas. Adhering to the Australian Curriculum would render this impossible for my child, and to this date, has been the only learning style that he/she/they have engaged in.

Researching and facilitating home education takes a lot of time and energy, but we have decided to follow this path with our child because they just don't respond to the Australian Curriculum. As a parent, it would be substantially easier to just enroll my child into distance education but we have already discovered that this method of learning would be detrimental to my child and our family. Drawing on our experience with traditional schooling and learning methods, we would be unable to successfully follow the Australian Curriculum.

As a homeschooling family, we have tried using the Australian Curriculum to educate our child, both at school and at home. It just doesn't work for our child. To this date, we have been fortunate to have the flexibility to choose how we provide a high-quality education for our child, and our once struggling and disengaged child is now thriving.

According to recent research collected by the Home Education Unit (2022), two of three home educating families have chosen to do so because of an underlying disability or health issue. For these children working the Australian Curriculum is not providing them a high-quality education or meeting their immediate needs. They have chosen this avenue because of the flexibility it affords. This enables families to educate and care for their children in a manner that suits their learning style. Most of these students have left mainstream schooling because they could not learn in a traditional learning style.

In conclusion, I respectfully urge the committee to reconsider the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation and to engage in a collaborative dialogue with homeschooling stakeholders to identify and address the real issues driving this educational choice. By doing so, we can work towards a more inclusive and responsive educational system that respects the choices and concerns of all families.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Berry

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