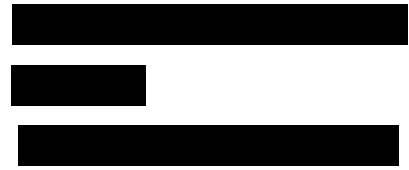


Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Committee Secretary
Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee
Parliament House
George Street
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Monday 11th of March 2024

Re: Objection to proposed changes to Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.

Dear Committee members,

My family and I hope you are well and writing this imperative letter to you regarding our strong objections to the homeschooling legislation amendments, particularly the requirement to follow a specific curriculum. There was no consultation with the homeschooling community concerning these amendments and there was no regard to the directly impacted by these legislative changes. The Homeschooling community is deeply distressed and outraged by these amendments and over 1300 comments have been posted to Ms Di Farmer's Facebook page. There is also a petition against these amendments with over 9000 signatures already. Homeschooling parents' insights and experiences are instrumental in shaping the educational success of our children. The Australian Curriculum, while well-intentioned, does not meet the diverse needs and aspirations of all students. Homeschooling parents know what is best for their children and how to give them the greatest possible education so they can flourish in life. The Australian curriculum is old fashioned, restrictive and an inflexible system which pigeonholes children into the same box when all children are unique and not going to thrive in the same settings. These staggering amendments to this legislation are an attack on every homeschooling family and taking away the freedom to choose how to educate our own children in the best possible way. The current Australian Curriculum, with its rigid structure and overloaded content, often fails to resonate with many children and can lead to disengagement from the learning process. A vast amount of content is also little to know use for a broad number of children or it is difficult to grasp so children then disengage during learning times in school. It is evident that a one-size-fits-all approach does not effectively cater to the unique learning styles, interests, and abilities of every student and I personally use different approaches with education with my 2 children.

I have been homeschooling my children for over 6 years and both are very individual and unique to each other. My daughter attended a public school until grade 4 and was failing in most subjects plus was bullied by another girl, to the point she was crying most days. I then after countless attempts with the school to rectify multiple issues, removed her from school

and my son never entered the public or private schooling system. For 6 years, I have been nurturing their wonderful development and do you think that I don't know what is best for my own children? I thought that the Australian Curriculum and sending my daughter to school was the best option until after 4 years there was constant issues with teaching standards, the curriculum, teaching essential life skills and bullying. Most of the time when I dropped off my daughter, picked her up or volunteered to help with reading or whatever the task was, children were swearing, running around crazy and the teacher was overwhelmed and barely able to cope with an over exhausted system. If children are struggling, they are just left to struggle and then the burden falls on the parents to try to catch their children up or expensive tutors are invested in so their children can possibly attain average level at best. My husband and I invested in Kip McGrath when our daughter was attending school, which was a pricey tutoring service just covering Maths and English. Our daughter did make some progress but only to a certain point and she only started to excel when I started working with her one-on-one and catered her learning to her specific needs.

My homeschooling education is specifically tailored to meet my children's distinct needs and the learning is diverse for both. They do not fit into the same box, and I have the time and the flexibility to offer them high-quality education other than the Australian Curriculum, that nurtures their strengths and works on their weakness unlike any school could ever offer. Homeschooling is moulded and catered around my children's strengths and abilities. My children receive one-on-one learning unlike the school system where an overwhelmed teacher must teach approximately 25-30 other students. Many children slip through the cracks of the education system and either struggle in silence or the parents are investing in expensive tutors to work with their children just to get them to an average level. The Australian curriculum is not in the best interest of every child and as parents we should have the right to choose the best way to educate our children. These legislative changes are going to have a detrimental effect on homeschooling parents and children. This is effectively taking away the freedom of choosing the best way to educate our children.

Rather than imposing stricter regulations, my family and 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.

In conclusion, my family and I implore the committee to reconsider the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation and to engage in a collaborative dialogue with homeschooling participants. The committee should engage with the homeschooling community and appreciate the personal experiences and achievements of homeschooling families. The committee could view the commitment level of homeschooling parents such as myself and so many other parents that constantly ensure that our children have access to a high-quality education that meets their unique needs.

Sincerely Chad