

## Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 239  
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**Publication:**  
**Attachments:** No attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Regarding Proposed Bill Regarding Homeschooling Legislation  
**Date:** Monday, 11 March 2024 10:40:45 PM

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Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes in homeschooling legislation, particularly the requirement to follow a specific curriculum. As a homeschooling parent, I firmly believe that these changes would undermine the very reasons why many families, including mine, have chosen homeschooling as the preferred mode of education for our children.

My eldest attended kindergarten and primary school up to grade 4 and my second child attended up to grade 1. My decision to home educate was that the system was not supporting my children to become confident and capable learners. Rather, they were stressed and mentally and physically drained. According to school reports they were both doing academically and socially well. However, their behaviour at home demonstrated they were not learning to learn but learning to regurgitate information that they then would not remember. I can tell my eldest child was gifted and able to pick up reading easily and do not think the school system was the reason for him to be able to read and write. My second child was apparently reading age appropriately and could read the sight words. However, she really could not read at all. After one year of home education she was reading well beyond the requirements without following the Australian curriculum. It was supporting her in her interests and ensuring a safe environment that helped to achieve her literacy skills.

I agree that the education provided should be for the benefit of the child. However, in no way is a standardised curriculum benefiting a child to become a physically and psychologically competent adult. It does provide a standard for schools to follow framework when working in such a system. However, there is no evidence that the Australian Curriculum is in the best interest of every child that goes through the Australian schooling system. In fact, current evidence demonstrates Australian children graduating

from the school system are not meeting international standards.

The essence of homeschooling lies in the freedom it affords children to learn in a manner that aligns with their individual interests, abilities, and learning styles. By imposing a mandated curriculum, these proposed changes would impede my children's autonomy and hinder their ability to pursue education in a way that best suits their needs.

One of the primary motivations for homeschooling is to provide our children with a personalised learning experience that fosters their intellectual curiosity and allows them to learn at their own pace. These new regulations threaten to restrict this flexibility and stifle their natural inclination to explore and discover the world around them.

Furthermore, enforcing a standardised curriculum fails to recognise the diverse interests and talents of homeschooling students. It overlooks the fact that every child is unique and may thrive in different subject areas or learning environments. By imposing rigid educational requirements, we risk depriving our children of the opportunity to pursue their passions and develop their full potential.

In essence, these proposed changes would not only undermine the fundamental principles of homeschooling but also limit my children's ability to learn and grow in a way that honours their individuality and creativity. As a homeschooling parent deeply invested in my children's education, I urge the committee to reconsider these restrictive measures and instead focus on supporting families in providing a rich and diverse educational experience tailored to the needs of each child.

I request a response by providing your position to this issue.

Sincerely,  
Christine Bowles

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