

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 248
Submitted by: Kristie Wood
Publication:
Attachments: No attachment
Submitter Comments:

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Recognising Homeschooling legislation
Date: Tuesday, 12 March 2024 4:29:58 PM

Sent from my iPhone
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Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you with my concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the education bill that has recently been presented to parliament. As a home educating parent, I do not support some of these changes that have been introduced and I am worried about the impact that they will have on my family and the homeschooling community.

The Australian Curriculum is an incredibly complex document that has been tailored to educate children in schools. Many schools employ curriculum specialists to interpret and implement this document. As a homeschooler, we don't have access to this level of expertise. In order to implement this, we would need to base our learning off over-simplified textbooks, rush through topics and stop the practical, hands-on nature of our learning. In a 1:1 setting, this is not a high-quality education.

As a parent of a neurodivergent child, I have spent hundreds of hours consulting with numerous specialists and allied health experts to determine how to best educate our child. We have liaised tirelessly with his former 5 schools 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 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 has engaged in.

Researching and facilitating home education takes a lot of time and energy, but I have decided to follow this path with my son 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, I 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 I provide a high-quality education for my child, and my 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.

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.

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.

Sincerely,
Kristie Wood
(Homeschooling Parent)