

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 269
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Good afternoon Committee Secretary, I write in regards to the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation, to which I am strongly opposed. As a primary teacher, and homeschool mother, I have been so grateful for the Home Education Unit (HEU) and the opportunity to homeschool our children (along with my husband) with flexibility these past 14 years. 2 of our children have finished schooling now - and they were homeschooled/distance educated all through their school life. One is at university and working in a job he loves, and the other fast tracked through school and is working full time this year, while taking some time to consider his options for a future career. Both are wonderful, hard working young men, serving in our community.

Homeschooling has meant we can tailor our children's education to their unique learning styles, interests, and needs. These experiences have provided me with invaluable insights into the challenges and opportunities of homeschooling. I firmly believe that without lived experience, it's challenging to fully grasp the intricacies of homeschooling and to understand what legislative measures are truly needed to ensure homeschooled children receive a quality education. It's not merely about enforcing rigid curriculum requirements but rather about fostering an environment that empowers parents to provide personalised, holistic education tailored to their children's individual needs and aspirations. While the Australian curriculum may be presented as a superior option, it's essential to acknowledge that it's just one of many possibilities. For some children, it may indeed be adequate, but for others, it may not align with their learning preferences or life goals. Schooling options should be diverse. Most parents are working so hard to provide a well rounded, tailored education for their children. Reporting and evidence on every subject is far too much work for both parents and the already swamped HEU. As things are at the moment, required reporting and giving evidence and plans for 3 subjects for multiple children takes a VERY long time. I can't imagine finding the time to do it for every subject! Reducing the show cause response time to 14 days is totally unreasonable as it takes so much time to collate evidence and seek the support needed - all while continuing to homeschool our children and give them the education they deserve.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to approach homeschooling legislation with a deep appreciation for the lived experiences of homeschooling families and a commitment to ensuring that all children have access to a quality education that meets their unique needs. By listening to the voices of homeschooling parents and advocating for policies that promote flexibility, autonomy, and inclusivity, we can create a more equitable and responsive educational system for all. Thank you for considering my perspective. Sincerely, [REDACTED]