

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 323
Submitted by: Danielle Howell
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Submitter Comments:

Dear Di Farmer and supporting team members,

At the age of six, my son has embarked on a unique educational journey that diverges from the traditional classroom setting. Having completed kindergarten and prep, he is now in Grade 1 of homeschooling, a path carefully chosen by our family to provide him with the best possible education tailored to his individual needs and interests.

Creating Personalised Education:

In our homeschooling environment, my son's education is meticulously crafted by myself his mother and also his father, ensuring that his interests and passions are at the forefront of his learning experience. This personalised approach has ignited a genuine enthusiasm for learning within him, as he eagerly requests to engage in educational activities every day and approaches his tasks with remarkable passion and dedication.

Challenges with the Traditional Australian Curriculum:

While traditional schools adhere to the Australian curriculum, we have found that it does not always align with the diverse needs and learning styles of every child. Homeschooling allows us to deviate from this standardized approach and design a curriculum that caters specifically to our son's strengths, interests, and pace of learning.

Advantages of Homeschooling:

- Individualised attention fosters deeper understanding and mastery of subjects.
- Flexible schedule accommodates diverse learning styles and preferences.
- Safe and nurturing environment free from bullying and distractions.
- Opportunities for experiential learning through real-life experiences and field trips.
- Tailored curriculum promotes a love for learning and intrinsic motivation.
- Ability to focus on specific areas of interest and passion projects.
- Enhanced parent-child relationship through collaborative learning experiences.
- Personalized pace of learning prevents boredom or frustration.
- Integration of life skills and values into daily lessons.
- Cultivation of independence and self-directed learning habits.

Pros of Creating Own Education Plans and NOT following the Australian Curriculum

- Empowerment to address individual learning needs and preferences.
- Flexibility to adapt curriculum based on child's progress and interests.
- Opportunity to incorporate diverse teaching methods and resources.
- Greater control over the depth and breadth of subjects covered.
- Ability to integrate real-world experiences and practical skills into lessons.
- Ability to take as long as needed on specific areas of learning and extend time if needed or progress to next area if child has a clear understanding

Request to Di Farmer:

As a member of the home education community, I urge you your team to refrain from implementing changes that would disrupt or undermine the autonomy of homeschooling families. The ability to create personalized education plans is essential in nurturing our children's academic, emotional, and intellectual growth. I implore you to continue supporting and respecting the rights of homeschooling families to provide their children with the best possible education tailored to their individual needs. There are many reasons why parents choose to not send their child to a private or public school, one very important reason is that the Australian Curriculum does not suit every single child.

Homeschooling nurtures future members of the community who possess the invaluable ability to think outside the box and approach challenges with creativity and innovation. By fostering independence and self-directed learning, homeschooling equips students with the confidence and skills necessary to thrive as strong, independent members of society. As they grow and mature, homeschooled individuals often emerge as potential business owners and leaders, equipped with the adaptability and resilience instilled by their homeschooling experience. With a foundation built on a strong and intelligent homeschooling plan, these individuals are primed to make meaningful contributions to their communities and beyond, shaping a brighter future for generations to come.

In conclusion, homeschooling has empowered us to cultivate a learning environment where my son thrives academically, emotionally, and socially. By embracing the advantages of homeschooling and respecting the autonomy of parents in crafting their children's education and homeschooling we can ensure that every child receives the personalized support and opportunities they deserve to reach their full potential.

I deeply urge you to refrain from making your proposed changes and read the submissions from all other concerned parents and guardians who have chosen to homeschool.

Sincerely,

Danielle Howell