

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 323
Submitted by: Danielle Howell
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: See attachment
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

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Objection to the proposed education Bill
Date: Thursday, 21 March 2024 8:37:41 PM

Danielle Howell

This is an individual submission

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Di Farmer and all relevant members,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the current state of education and to advocate for the recognition and support of homeschooling as a viable alternative for children's education.

I do not support the proposed changes to the bill and would like all homeschooling families to continue to homeschool with the freedom of choice when it comes to how the child has education delivered to them. Parents who homeschool their children already sacrifice many things, careers , finances , personal time for self care and hobbies , these sacrifices alone can demonstrate the commitment and passion parents have for delivering a strong and intelligent education to their children!

As it stands a education plan must be submitted to the Home education unit and also a report, this documentation allows the department to have an insight as to how the child is learning and also to see clear examples of their work. Please do not interfere with a system that is already working and allowing parents to witness their children thrive !

As a parent deeply invested in my child's learning journey, I believe it is essential to highlight the numerous benefits of homeschooling and address the need for more inclusive educational policies.

First and foremost, homeschooling has proven to be a source of excitement and enthusiasm for my child's learning experience. Unlike traditional classroom settings, where students may feel constrained by rigid structures and standardized curricula, homeschooling has allowed my child the freedom to explore and engage with topics that truly spark his curiosity. This personalized approach has fostered a genuine love for learning that I believe is invaluable to his academic and personal development.

Moreover, homeschooling has provided a safe and nurturing environment free from the pervasive issue of bullying that plagues many schools. By learning at home my child is spared from the emotional and psychological distress associated with bullying, allowing him to focus on his studies and personal growth without fear or anxiety.

One of the most significant advantages of homeschooling is the opportunity for one-on-one learning that cannot be replicated in a traditional classroom setting. Through individualized attention and tailored instruction, my child receives personalized support that addresses his unique learning style, strengths, and challenges. This level of customization ensures that he is able to reach his full potential and excel academically in ways that may not be possible within the constraints of a standardized curriculum.

However, despite these undeniable benefits, homeschooling continues to face stigma and barriers to widespread acceptance. The prevailing notion that homeschooling is inferior to traditional schooling is misguided and fails to acknowledge the diverse needs and preferences of students and families. It is essential to recognize that the one-size-fits-all approach of conventional education may not suit every child, and alternative options such as homeschooling should be embraced and supported as legitimate choices for families seeking a more personalized and flexible educational experience.

Furthermore, the current curriculum used in many traditional schools is outdated and fails to accommodate the diverse learning styles and needs of students. As a parent, I have observed firsthand how the rigid structure of traditional education often overlooks individual strengths and interests, leading to disengagement and frustration among students. By contrast, homeschooling allows for a more flexible and adaptable approach to curriculum design, enabling parents to tailor their child's education to align with their unique abilities, interests, and learning preferences.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the invaluable role that homeschooling plays in providing a personalized, safe, and effective educational experience for children. By recognizing and supporting homeschooling as a legitimate choice for families, we can ensure that all children have access to an education that meets their individual needs and empowers them to thrive academically and personally.

If this bill is passed you will be impacting thousands of families in a very negative way! That is something that should not be taken lightly! Families will continue to homeschool as we are passionate and won't be forced to teach our children curriculum that is already failing students in the classroom.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your support in advocating for the rights of homeschooling families in our community.

Sincerely,

Danielle Howell