

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

**Submission No:** 359  
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**Submitter Comments:**

To the Committee,

I am writing to object to the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Bill 2024 in the current form. I have specific concerns with the implications of Clauses 18, 64 & 68 and I am in support of the Free2homeschool Movement.

This will have an impact on a child being able to access higher education early like their schooled peers and although I believe in progress with education, I do not feel the way it is being proposed is a way that will reflect high-quality education or equality with schooled children.

Currently I have one child who has exited home education (due to the age extension not being applied in 2018 when it should have occurred) and has been studying part time university during the late home educating years. If this bill passes it will deny access to my other child and any other home educated children to a broad and fulfilling educational experience that is suited to their needs, ability and interests on a similar pathway, restricting them in their freedom of choice when it comes to education, therefore having a detrimental effect on them and tens of thousands of other children across the state, not to mention all the children of the future. It will not promote a high-quality education if we are stuck providing opportunities consistent with the national school curriculum, lacking the flexibility our children have come to know for many years.

Having our children have to prove educational progress to fulfill the legislated expectation when schooled kids continue to progress through grades without that across every subject covered is just not appropriate. How is that going to look? How will the Home Education Unit determine what progress looks like? It is holding our homeschooled families to a higher standard than what is expected in school, firstly, and then secondly it is also unfeasible considering the lack of support we receive to home educate our children from the department level.

We have given up a lot to ensure our children have access to the high-quality education they have, our family together have made sacrifices, and we will lose that flexibility to provide to what our children need and want if we are made to waste time on more paperwork, that is time taken from our children, instead of devoting it to where it really matters! These are even more sacrifices in our life, but these are ones we do NOT want to have to make, our children's education matters.

I also want to make a point that we left school due to safety within the school environment. With no prior teacher training. And juggling significant traumatic events. Having to pull together an entire application and educational plan overnight would have been impossible in such situations! If the proposed changes occur in s212 in not allowing provisional without an

application in FULL, whilst dealing with bullying from all levels in the school and a traumatised child, we would have been left in even more dire situations at the time than we already were in having to maintain an enrolment, juggle medical appointments to get permission to not attend and the like. This cannot be allowed to happen! So many people leave school due to traumatic events or mental health issues that there needs to be a window of grace period, just as if it were to be treated as a few weeks school holiday before we begin our home education journey. If we are expected to home educate for 365 days per year, having a few weeks to gather and plan our education is really not that impacting in the grand scheme of the entire educational years.

Kind regards,

Michael Fitzgerald

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