

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 482
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Submission

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

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission re the proposed Home Education amendments.

The education of children is determined by parental choice as they consider the best interests of their child. Only a parent loves and knows their own child in such a way as to determine what those best interests will be for each individual child. Giving that ‘the best interests of the child or young person’ is a ‘new guiding principle’ of the proposed amendments, it is misguided to assume that anyone other than a parent can make a decision about a child as to whether or not home education is best for any particular child, or in fact, what those ‘best interests’ might be.

Home Education has been a choice of parents in increasing numbers, particularly since the 1980s. I homeschooled 3 children for 15 years, one from mid- Year 3 to Year 12 and two from Prep to Year 12 using curricula other than the Australian Curriculum. The success and effectiveness of this can be seen in the outcomes of these now adults:

- Child One has Bachelor and Masters degrees
- Child Two has a Bachelor degree and won awards at the university
- Child Three has two Bachelor degrees, one obtained post-secondary education and one as a mature age student.
- All have employment, contribute to the community and have loving, stable marriages
- None have been in trouble with the police, committed crimes, used drugs or have mental health problems.

These outcomes are not isolated to our family. There are both Australian and International studies of Home Educated children world-wide which reveal consistently above average or high achievement in every measurement.

Home Educating parents may or may not be trained teachers and should not have increased burdens of preparing an entire training program at the time of application for registration nor of increased reporting requirements. The very nature of Home Education is to give freedom to families to educate each child in the most effective way for the learning needs of that child. Increased burdens on parents will not produce better outcomes for the children.

Because Home Education currently is administered in the best interests of the child by families who choose this mode of education, the outstanding results obtained by Home Educated children and the current research which demonstrates the effectiveness of Home Education, these proposed amendments are unnecessary and will place unnecessary burdens on families. I recommend that these amendments not proceed.

Juliet Ballinger

