

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 495
Submitted by: Cassandra Jarvis
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members, As a homeschool graduate and prospective homeschooling parent, I am deeply concerned about the proposed changes that would require homeschooling families to follow the Australian curriculum. My parents chose the path of homeschooling because they believed it offered the best educational experience for their children—one that is tailored to their unique needs, interests, and abilities. As their child homeschooled from grade 1 through grade 12, I am deeply grateful that they made that choice, as I was able to learn in line with my needs and nurture specific passions that have served me well in my university study and career. Homeschooling has given children like me the freedom to be ourselves—to learn, grow, and explore the world around us on our terms. Unlike the rigid confines of the Australian curriculum, homeschooling allows us to be provided a holistic education that nurtures our individuality and fosters a lifelong love of learning. I have seen firsthand how homeschooling has enabled myself and other children to thrive academically, emotionally, and socially. It has empowered us to pursue our passions, develop critical thinking skills, and become self-motivated learners. The proposed changes to mandate the Australian curriculum for homeschooling families are unnecessary and unwanted. They would undermine the very essence of homeschooling—the freedom to choose an educational path that best suits children's needs and aspirations. Moreover, these changes may inadvertently lead to higher rates of non-compliance and false reporting, as some families may feel compelled to circumvent the regulations rather than navigate the cumbersome requirements. Rather than imposing additional burdens on homeschooling families, I urge you to support homeschooling parents in their efforts to provide their children with the best possible education. These are dedicated parents who are deeply invested in their children's academic success and well-being, and as a community we respectfully request that our freedom to homeschool be protected. Sincerely, Cassandra