


Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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SUBMISSION REGARDING THE EDUCATION (GENERAL PROVISIONS) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent education legislation changes that have been proposed in our state. As an individual who will be directly affected by this proposed Bill, I believe it is crucial to voice my objections to the potential impact of these changes will have on my family.

I am a mother of two working part-time from home after hours. I gave up a full-time, 19-year federal government career, and my personal financial independence, to home educate our two daughters. One daughter lives with significant specific learning difficulties (Dyslexia, Dysgraphia and Dyscalculia). I home educate while my spouse (Navy) is posted to Sydney for work. Previous to home educating, I volunteered in my dyslexic child's classroom and studied as a teacher's aide. I was also a very active volunteer in the school communities. During her four years of mainstream schooling I advocated greatly for my daughter's additional needs in the classroom. The school put interventions in place, including additional learning support, I paid privately for her diagnosis and specialist treatments, even moved from our highly regarded public school to private school education. I have tried to make the school system work. Unfortunately, **what my child requires is just not able to be achieved in a school setting**. Literacy-based curriculum and student teacher ratios were the two main contributors.

The proposed legislation raises several pressing concerns I believe need to be addressed. Firstly, **following the Australian Curriculum will reduce the effectiveness of our home education**. This change will severely inhibit my ability to tailor home education to my daughters' interests and learning needs. The key benefit of home education for our family is the ability to educate at the child's level and pace, tailoring materials to their individual interests and learning strengths. Home education for us is essentially full-time private tutoring. I currently utilise mastery-based curriculums (All About Reading, All About Spelling, Math-U-See) and highly regarded and awarded international curriculums, both of which will become much more difficult to utilise under this proposed legislation. Being forced to follow the Australian Curriculum, proven to be unsuitable for my child's learning needs, will greatly hamper my daughters' learning.

Additionally, **I am concerned for the additional workload this alternate method of educating and reporting will put on me**. Researching and facilitating interest-led home education already takes a lot of time and energy. The Australian Curriculum is an incredibly complex document that has been tailored to educate children in schools. Many schools employ curriculum specialists to interpret and implement this document. Adhering to this superfluous requirement would take the place of my paid part-time work, to the financial detriment of my family. I already compile four-page annual reports and provide six work samples as evidence. As a parent I work tirelessly to maintain my daughters' active social lives and exposure to educational and personal growth experiences; I've personally organised four of our home education community social meets, two student workshops, a school camp experience and a Qwestacon science show this year to date. Introducing a requirement to follow the Australian Curriculum will cause such significant, additional workload for me personally, these extra endeavours will significantly reduce or cease. I may also have to cease paid part-time work as a direct result of this proposed legislation. Effective home education needs imagination, last minute adaptation, constant research and sourcing of new materials. The proposed reporting and recording needs will draw from this.

This Bill will not benefit my child, it will only serve to waste my time, place me under undue stress and reduce the effectiveness of my children's education.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed education legislation and to prioritize the best interests of our rapidly growing and proactive home educating community. I implore you to advocate for a more inclusive and collaborative approach to policymaking that values input from all stakeholders and ensures the integrity and quality of our education system.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for considering my concerns.