

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

**Submission No:** 566  
**Submitted by:** Dale Christoff  
**Publication:**  
**Attachments:** No attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Embracing Diversity and Flexibility in Education  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 March 2024 2:20:29 PM

---

Dear Ms Farmer MP and committee members,

I am writing to you because I want you to hear how much it has benefited my family to home educate. I also want to share that I am very concerned about the bill to mandate the Australian curriculum on home educating families.

The proposed changes in clause 68 section 217 (1) (b) (ii) stating that home education must be consistent with an approved education and training programme (as defined in s217(3)), will stop home educators from being able to create the individualized learning pathways that are so essential to many children.

I think there is ample evidence to support the claim that most children's education thrives best on an individualised education pathway. Considering that it is not reasonable to expect schools with large class numbers to provide this, I would think the more families who are able to take on home education would be of great benefit not only to those families but to the education system by reducing class sizes. This is especially true in relation to catering for neurodiverse students and those with learning difficulty diagnoses.

I am aware that a recent report "Deaths of children and young people Queensland 2022-2023" was presented to Parliament. In that report it gives account of the tragic suicide of a child who happened to be enrolled with HEU. This child had mental health issues that were not yet investigated by child services, yet the report states that "The young person's experiences led the Board to consider the regulatory oversight of, and support for, children registered for home education in Queensland." My understanding is that a review of home education regulation and oversight has been triggered by this matter.

This seems entirely inappropriate and unrelated to home education. I fail to see how any changes this bill would make, would effectively prevent what occurred with this child. I think this incident is a child safety matter which could have occurred regardless of whether the Australian curriculum was being used or not.

I challenge the idea that students within the traditional school system across all Australian schools are consistently meeting the requirements of the Australian Curriculum with positive, flourishing outcomes for all students. As a homeschooling parent, I believe that home education provides families like mine with an opportunity to meet the individual needs of each child without being burdened by the responsibility of managing Australia's curriculum system.

The vast majority of home educators who choose a flexible curriculum do so to benefit their children academically, emotionally and psychologically. As far as academics go a NSW study in 2014 (Academic Outcomes of Home Schooling) showed a measurably higher rate of success in producing graduates with high levels of education, compared to public school education.

Personally however this is not a matter of highest levels achieved within a whole, it is a matter of best outcomes for each individual. In my families experience our children have switched a number of times back and forth between adherence to the curriculum and a flexible programme and every time sticking to the curriculum has caused them to go backwards academically, but also emotionally and psychologically.

My two oldest children are now entering the work force and I am seeing that the time they were able to focus on their interests and manage their own schedule has prepared them well for a work environment.

In my work I interact with many parents who share with me that traditional schooling (even done from home) has not prepared their children well for life beyond school.

Mandating any curriculum no matter how good a standard it sets, goes against the very essence of what makes home education an effective solution for many families who have left formal school because their children were not learning well.

It seems ineffective to enforce a curriculum that fails many children in the traditional setting. I adamantly oppose these changes, especially for my neurodiverse learners, who struggle in traditional school but are thriving with an individualized learning plan tailored to their needs.

I kindly request that you reply to my email provided below to share your thoughts on what I have written. I would welcome any questions that you may have.

Thank you for your time,

Dale Christoff

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]