

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Re: Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024
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To Committee Secretary, (Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee)

I wholeheartedly agree that every child deserves access to a high-quality education. However, I must express my reservations regarding the adequacy of the Australian Curriculum in fulfilling this fundamental right. In today's interconnected world, where the internet provides instant global access to a wealth of educational resources and innovative curricula, it's imperative that we reconsider the notion of a one-size-fits-all approach to education.

The Australian Curriculum, while well-intentioned, may not necessarily meet the diverse needs and aspirations of all students. In a landscape where alternative educational pathways are readily available, why should homeschooled children be confined to a single curriculum? Instead, we should embrace the richness of educational diversity and empower parents to choose the educational approach that best aligns with their children's interests, abilities, and aspirations.

Rather than enforcing adherence to a standardized curriculum, I propose that we allocate resources towards funding research and innovation in home education. By investing in comprehensive studies that explore the effectiveness of various homeschooling methodologies and curricular approaches, we can better understand how to support homeschooling families in providing high-quality education for their children.

The proposed legislation raises several pressing concerns that I believe need to be addressed. The changes listed below have my objections as I view them, I see no benefit to these changes and foresee more harm if they are implemented.

sn 7 - Guiding Principles

- (a) parents have the responsibility of choosing a suitable education environment for their children
- **Objection** - Who defines "suitable"? - This could be open to many forms of political and bureaucratic abuse

Ch9 P15 Div2 - Provisional Registration

- This section is to be omitted from the Education Act
- **Objection** - Removing Provisional Registration means that parents have to qualify for full registration immediately upon commencing home schooling. This is a major problem for families who are commencing home schooling.

sn208(2) Procedural requirements for application

- The Minister wants families to report on times outside of registration. They want this report to demonstrate educational progress.
- **Objection** - This is massive overreach by the government. Asking for reporting and educational progress outside of registration is stepping outside of their jurisdiction

sn211 - Chief Executive may require further information or documents

- If a home educator receives a "show cause" notice, they used to have 28 days to reply, this is reduced to 14 days.
- **Objection** - families would have less time to prepare their response! why?

sn214(1) Steps to be taken after application decided

- The HEU will no longer issue a certificate of registration to registered families.
- **Objection** - the certificates are useful for parents e.g. Centrelink access and other uses in the community

sn217 Standard Conditions

- The educational programme must "be consistent with" an approved education and training programme.
- **Objection** - Home educators will be required to report on all subjects and this will be aligned with the 8 Key Learning Areas of the Australian Curriculum. In this way the HEU is taking control of our child's learning plan. It will have to be in accord with the Australian Curriculum. This will mean much more work for us in reporting to the HEU. AND HOW is the term "be consistent with" to be interpreted? This is a major problem for home schoolers.

I am worried about the lack of transparency and public consultation surrounding these changes. As a stakeholder in our education system, I believe it is imperative for the voices of educators, parents, students, and community members to be heard and considered in any decision-making process that impacts our children.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to consider alternative approaches to homeschooling legislation that prioritize flexibility, innovation, and parental choice. By embracing the opportunities presented by digital technology and global connectivity, we can create a more inclusive and dynamic educational system that empowers all children to thrive in the 21st century and beyond.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
Sharon Jones
Homeschooling Parent
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