

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 582
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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Attachments: See attachment
Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

RE: Concerns Regarding Proposed Changes to Homeschooling Legislation

I am writing to express my deep concerns about the proposed Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, particularly the proposed requirement for home educators to implement and adhere to the Australian Curriculum. I do not approve of these proposed changes for the following reasons:

- As a registered home educating parent and carer of two neurodivergent children with multiple disabilities including Autism Spectrum Disorder (Level 2 and Level 3), ADHD, PDA (Pathological Demand Avoidance), Anxiety, Situational Mutism, and school refusal, I believe that these proposed changes would be detrimental to my children's education and mental health because it would prevent my children from learning in the way that best suits their unique needs and learning styles.
- Forcing my children to follow a predetermined one-size-fits-all curriculum that they do not find interesting, meaningful, engaging, and relevant to their life would cause strong resistance and refusal, multiple daily meltdowns (that can last up to 2 hours at a time), shutdowns and disengagement in learning and life.
- My children already refuse to go to school and this legislative change and it's attempt to replicate school-at-home does not make any sense and would cause great harm to my children (and countless others in the same situation).
- I know my children best and I know that forcing them to follow the Australian curriculum would NOT be in their best interests and would cause them to go backwards in their development, learning and mental health. Please do not do this to my children.
- If this legislation passes, I feel like my rights as a parent and home educator and my freedom to choose engaging curriculum and resources for my children will be taken away. I also feel like my choice of curriculum would severely limited and restricted to the Australian Curriculum.

I am deeply committed to providing my children with a high quality education which is individually tailored to each child, based on their personal needs and interests and delivered at a pace that suits them. **No one is more invested in my children's education and future successes than I am and I take my responsibility to educate them very seriously.** I use a wide variety of high quality resources and curriculum to deliver a personalised, interest-driven education to my children which they find deeply engaging, meaningful and relevant to their life. This tailored approach also helps to protect their love of learning and mental health which is so incredibly important.

Please know that for children, like mine, who have disabilities, are diverse learners, and experience social/emotional and behavioural difficulties, an individually tailored, interest-driven, flexible approach to education is not just a preference or choice but a **necessity** for the wellbeing of the child.

My children are happy and thriving in their home education and they love having flexibility, autonomy, and choice in their learning. Please don't take this away from my children (and other home educated children) and deprive them of an engaging, individually tailored and meaningful education which nurtures their unique needs, strengths, interests, and talents.

Yours sincerely,

Extremely Concerned Home Educating Parent of Two Neurodivergent Children