

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 583
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I wish to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes in homeschooling legislation, particularly the requirement to follow the Australian curriculum (or any specific curriculum). As a homeschooling parent, I firmly believe that these changes would undermine the very reasons why many families, including mine, have chosen homeschooling as the preferred mode of education for our children. My children have absolutely thrived homeschooling. They have attended traditional schooling in the past and have said that the curriculum is boring and shallow (and therefore, NOT suited to their individual needs). One of the primary motivations for many homeschooling families is to provide our children with a personalized learning experience that fosters their intellectual curiosity and allows them to learn at their own pace and at their own level. Many families have also had to leave traditional school for their child's physical, emotional and educational well-being. Many have diverse learning needs, disabilities, giftedness or other factors which means they simply cannot thrive without a highly personalised program. These new regulations threaten to restrict the flexibility that is currently available to tailor learning to their individual needs, and for some, re-creating the traumatic restrictions of traditional schooling and leading to disengagement. Furthermore, enforcing a standardized curriculum fails to recognize the diverse interests and talents of homeschooling students. It overlooks the fact that every child is unique and may thrive in different subject areas or learning environments. By imposing rigid educational requirements, we risk depriving our children of the opportunity to pursue their passions and develop their full potential. In essence, these proposed changes would not only undermine the fundamental principles of homeschooling but also limit my children's ability to learn and grow in a way that honours their individuality and creativity. Although being a homeschooling parent takes sacrifice and commitment, it is of great benefit to the children that are able to be educated in this way. I am personally deeply invested in my children's education and I urge the committee to reconsider these restrictive measures. Please instead focus on supporting families to continue to be able to provide their children with an education that is tailored to the needs of each individual child, which of course is absolutely in their best interests. Thank you for reading.