

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the new bill that proposes homeschooling families in Australia must follow the Australian curriculum. While I understand the intention behind this bill, I believe it raises several important issues that need to be addressed. Firstly, imposing the Australian curriculum on homeschooling families could be seen as a violation of parental rights. Parents have the fundamental right to choose the best form of education for their children, and this includes the freedom to tailor their child's education to meet their individual needs and values. Mandating a specific curriculum could restrict this freedom and undermine the autonomy of parents in making decisions about their child's education. Secondly, there is a concern that the current Australian curriculum may not adequately meet the needs of all students. Every child is unique, and some may thrive better with a different approach to education than what is offered in the standard curriculum. Forcing families to adhere to a curriculum that does not suit their child's learning style, or needs is cruel and not in the best interests of the child. Thirdly, treating homeschooling parents as if they are guilty criminals by imposing strict regulations and oversight could create a hostile environment that undermines the trust between parents and the education system. Homeschooling parents are often deeply committed to their child's education and should be treated with respect and trust. Currently, we have one of our children homeschooling, as we believe it is the best educational path for her. Since embarking on this journey, she has flourished, enjoying the freedom to pursue her interests and cultivate a love for learning. At just 14 years old, she has even taken the initiative to enroll in a university short course, a significant step toward her future career aspirations. It is clear that the flexibility of homeschooling has enabled her to thrive academically and personally. Any requirement to adhere strictly to a curriculum that does not align with her needs or aspirations would undoubtedly hinder her progress and potential for success. I urge you to reconsider this bill and to consider the concerns of homeschooling families. Instead of imposing a one-size-fits-all approach, I encourage you to support policies that promote flexibility and choice in education, while ensuring that all children have access to a high-quality education that meets their individual needs. Thank you for considering my views on this important issue.