

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 587
Submitted by: Ryan Linneman
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I have been teaching mathematics in a state high school for fifteen years and educating my children at home for fourteen years. I have two concerns with the proposed bill. First, I do not agree that the Australian Curriculum should be the only approved education and training program for use in home education. In the school setting, I have repeatedly worked with students towards learning outcomes in line with the Australian Curriculum who have failed to achieve them. This is in part because of the nature of the curriculum which requires every strand to be taught in a spiralling fashion, achieving exposure but never mastery of any particular topic. An education program that focuses on mastery should be approved as suitable for homeschooling. This is in part because concepts are too early or late for individual learners, or improperly sequenced, due to the rigidity of the curriculum. The flexibility to adopt parts of educational programs targeted to the individual learner (which home education uniquely affords over school education) is often in the learner's best interests. The requirement to follow the Australian Curriculum achieves uniformity in school education often as the sacrifice of the students' best interests, and imposing the same on home education cannot be demonstrated to be in the learner's best interest. Second, I do not agree that reporting on all subject areas 'strengthens' the reporting framework nor streamlines regulation. The evidence of progress that I am required to provide for students in school is minimal. Tests are graded and reports are sent. Through pre and post testing, I can evidence progress, but reporting on twenty five students is a straight forward process. In the home education setting, a detailed annotated sample is required for both pre and post testing, with lengthy statements of student progress. My wife prepares these, and I review these, and it takes days for each child. To increase this by 200-300%, then expect the staff at the HEU to give careful attention to this work and understand the progress of each of student only adds to the ardour of the task. Nothing further is demonstrated about the learning in home education by completing more reporting. The majority of home educators (over 99% according to public HEU data) continually make decisions to provide high quality educational opportunities for the children in a manor approved by Education Queensland. These two changes will decrease the quality of education that I can provide my children and will add unnecessary administrative work. The Australian Curriculum is an example of an education program that could be approved but should not be the only approved education program.