

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 627
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Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: See attachment
Submitter Comments:

I am writing this submission to ask that you please consider removing the proposed amendment in Clause 68 of the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Bill 2024 which would effectively mandate a preset curriculum for homeschooled families.

My experience as a home educator and mum to our five children over the past 16 years of home educating has been that the *children themselves* find the greatest satisfaction and drive in assuming the shared weight of responsibility for learning at their highest potential.

Witnessing my children enjoy natural intrinsic freedoms to drive their learning in directions unique to their person, has informed my decisions as the home educator. It has been my great pleasure to allow the children freedom to drive their education and make choices about what they learn; choices that might otherwise not be permissible within the restrictions of time if a preset curriculum was mandated to them. We live and teach within the restrictions of reality that there are only so many hours in a day and months in a year. If, as a home educator, I am to teach a full preset curriculum, the stark reality is I am not afforded enough time in the day and school days in the year to complete the tasks and goals set for my children whilst also allowing them to exercise freedoms to charge forward in directions of learning collaborated on by the child and home educator. How many drivers can sit in the seat?

Recently I bought a "one size fits all" "oodie" for myself to keep warm while we enjoy star gazing in the backyard this winter. The tag says, 'one size fits all', but in it, I'm swamped by too much material and a hood so large I cannot see out from it. Not only is my oodie too big for me, but for some people, it would be too small. No matter how the Australian Curriculum changes over the years, it will be too much for some and not big enough for others. A preset curriculum is not the answer for home educated families. Children are not 'one size fits all' nor are they 'cookie-cutter cookies,' all meant to turn out alike.

I appreciate the time and energy with which our nation collectively pours into educating the children within Australia. It is a great privilege to live in a country where our children are free to learn, and we entrust this great responsibility of education to those selected and paid for the job. As a home educator, I ask to be allowed freedom and trust to home educate to a high standard without being mandated that I teach to a preset curriculum.