

## Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 643  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

Dear Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee, I am writing to oppose the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 in its current form; specifically in regards to home education. I have a Bachelor in Occupational Therapy, which includes studies in Child Development, and have worked for five years in a school supporting children with learning needs and disabilities. In addition, I am the mother of two children who are fast approaching school age. I am engaging with this legislation from a professional and personal point of view. My main concerns are that:

- Following the Australian Curriculum is not in the best interest of every child.
- The rights of parents to choose the kind of education for their child is being encroached upon (Article 26, point 3, Universal Declaration of Human Rights). Professionally, I do not believe that the proposed requirement to follow the Australian Curriculum is in the best interest of every child. The Australian Curriculum is complex and loaded, it is very difficult to adapt for children with specific learning needs and styles. Examples of this include: neuro-divergence, disability, learning difficulties, mental illness, and intellectual impairment or giftedness. These children are a large proportion of home educated students. They need a flexible education that can be easily adapted in order for them to learn and thrive. I have witnessed the discouragement and anxiety produced in children with complex learning needs due to the pressure imposed on them by Australian Curriculum requirements. Furthermore, the Australian Curriculum is designed for the school environment. It will not be easily transferable to the home environment, where the community is the classroom and the classmates are children of different ages and stages of development. Di Farmer said on her Facebook post, "every child deserves the same access to a high quality education, no matter who they are or where they live in QLD." I agree with this statement, but enforcing compliance to the Australian Curriculum or other ACARA approved curriculum, is not the answer. Personally, I believe this proposal encroaches on the rights of parents to choose what is best for their children. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, 'Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children'. The majority of parents who choose to educate their children at home do not make the choice lightly, and not without significant sacrifice. They are largely conscientious parents. The knowledge I have of my children and my experience through study and work have me seriously considering home education for my family. If we can afford and manage it as a family, my children will be better educated and better cared for. The majority of home educating parents will always have a deep concern for the welfare and development of their children. They also have access to high quality educative resources (including the Australian Curriculum) from home. A teacher's strength is expertise and experience in the classroom, a parents strength is the knowledge and love of their child. I understand that an increase in home education registrations may require some changes to legislation and policy. However, they need to be changes that support and protect what home education does best. The high volume of submissions, letters and meetings driven by home educators in response to this bill is indicative of poor consultation. A more collaborative approach in policy making is necessary to ensure all children have access to a high-quality education. Thank you for taking the time to read my submission and for considering my concerns.