

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Reconsidering Home Schooling Legislation: Addressing Real Issues.
Date: Friday, 15 March 2024 6:55:29 PM

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the inflexibility and crowded nature of the Australian Curriculum, particularly how it impacts children's engagement and learning outcomes. As a concerned citizen, parent and advocate for educational reform, I strongly believe there is an urgent need for flexible schooling options that prioritize the diverse needs and interests of students, rather than adhering to an outdated and irrelevant curriculum. So students can excel in subjects/topics that interest them and learn life skills.

The current Australian curriculum, with its rigid structure and overcrowded content, often fails to resonate with many children and can lead to disengagement from the learning process, which in turn, can also make children fall behind academically. It's evident that a one-size-fits-all approach does not effectively cater to the unique learning styles, interests, and abilities of every student.

As someone who is deeply invested in my child's education, I've made the conscious choice to home school due to my son being sexually assaulted and groomed on school grounds by another student a few years ahead of my son. The principal did not take the accusations seriously, my son's mental health declined greatly after these incidences occurred. It was the best decision I ever made and I was left no choice but to home school my child, to protect his mental health and make him feel safe again. My son now learns in an environment where he feels safe. After these incidences occurred my son was petrified to return to mainstream school.

Since home schooling, my son has excelled in all subjects and is at least 2 years ahead on all subjects. When he was in mainstream school he was at least 2 years behind and the school kept informing me that he will "catch up" despite never giving him tutoring or any help from teachers. Therefore, the mainstream educational system may not always suit, or in some cases, can even harm children.

I firmly believe that without lived experiences, it's challenging to fully grasp the intricacies of home schooling and to understand what legislative measures are truly needed to ensure home schooled children receive a quality education. It's not merely about enforcing rigid curriculum requirements but rather about fostering an environment that empowers parents to provide personalised, holistic education tailored to their children's individual needs and aspirations.

For many children with several disabilities, I am truly disappointed by the proposed changes to the home schooling legislation. For many children with disabilities and neurodivergences, home schooling is not just a choice by necessity-an opportunity to create an environment where they can thrive at their own pace and in their own unique way. Home schooling provides a lifeline for these children, offering the flexibility and personalized support they require to learn and grow in a safe and nurturing environment.

I implore the committee to take the time to speak directly with home schooling families and listen to their insights and experiences. Working together to create policies that support children's individual learning needs and ensure that every child has the opportunity to succeed and feel safe, as this would better benefit the children.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to consider alternative approaches to home schooling

legislation that prioritize flexibility, innovation, and parental choice. By embracing the opportunities presented by digital technology and global connectivity, we can create a more inclusive and dynamic educational system that empowers all children to thrive in the 21st century and beyond.

Sincerely.....

Natasha Collisson.

