

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 696
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members, I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed changes that will undoubtedly have detrimental impacts on my family and, more importantly, on my children's ability to receive a high-quality education through homeschooling. I oppose changing the legislation to include that home educating families must follow the Australian Curriculum. I am sharing my firsthand experience as a homeschooling parent and to emphasize the invaluable learning opportunities that homeschooling has provided for my children. In light of the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation, I believe it's crucial to highlight the positive impact that homeschooling has had on my children's love for learning and their preparation for the real world. Since embarking on our homeschooling journey 3 years ago, I have witnessed a remarkable transformation in my children's attitude towards education. The personalized learning approach we have adopted has reignited their passion for learning and instilled in them a newfound confidence in their abilities. Rather than merely memorizing facts and figures, they are actively engaged in exploring topics that spark their curiosity and pursuing knowledge in a way that resonates with them personally. I have sourced out numerous programs and resources from all around the world that are far superior in content and depth of learning, compared to what the Australian Curriculum provides students. Tailoring each learning plan to the individual child is imperative. Our children are not defined by a level, age or grade. Why hold a child back when they are excelling in an area, and why thrust a child forward at a rate where they can't keep up and education becomes a negative practice? It is worth noting that we have tried using the Australian Curriculum to educate our eldest child, both at school and at home. It just doesn't work for her. To this date, we have been fortunate to have the flexibility to choose how we provide a high-quality education for our children. Following the personalised learning plans that I, myself have put together for each of our children, our once struggling and disengaged child is now thriving, and her younger sister works at what would be considered above grade level. Researching and facilitating home education takes a lot of time and energy, and it means the loss of a second income. We have decided to follow this path with our children because they just don't respond to the Australian Curriculum and their education is paramount to our family. As a parent, it would be substantially easier to just enroll our children into distance education, but we have already discovered that this method of learning would be detrimental to our children and their futures. Drawing on our experience with traditional schooling and learning methods, we would be unable to successfully follow the Australian Curriculum and this would certainly not benefit our children. I do not believe that this bill, in its current form, is in the best interest of our children. What recent data can be shared that shows the outcomes from school students following the Australian Curriculum to warrant it being implemented in our homes? Our eldest daughter is one of the many children that this curriculum has not benefited. If it worked for our children, we wouldn't need to pour the time, money and resources into reinventing the wheel. In conclusion, I urge you to recognize and celebrate the diverse benefits of homeschooling, which go beyond mere academic achievement. As a homeschooling parent, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to nurture my children's love of learning and to prepare them for the complexities of the real world through a personalised education. Thank you for considering my perspective.