

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

**Submission No:** 707  
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### Submitter Comments:

I would like to voice my concerns regarding the proposal to enforce the following of the Australian curriculum onto home educated students. In my experience, the majority of children that home school do so due to learning difficulties associated with either autism, adhd, developmental delays, anxiety, depression, processing difficulties or other undiagnosed problems. Parents have taken their children out of mainstream school due to these conditions being not catered for. From what I have experienced with my own 13 year old daughter and have heard overwhelmingly from other families, these special needs students learn best from child led, teachable moments and following their own personal life interests. Many families I know of have tried teaching from the Australian curriculum and have not had any success. This has led to two choices for those families - send the child back to mainstream school where they were not thriving at all (the opposite, usually) or teach them in a more relaxed and child led fashion. The latter is most often found to be the solution, and these children are happy and thriving in most cases. To use my own daughter as an example, she was not engaging at all in the curriculum studies when we first began home schooling, so enthusiasm and learning outcomes were low. Since we adopted a different approach, she has become greatly interested in learning and is excited about all subjects! She loves history, social studies, music, playing piano, musical theatre, public speaking, learning German, singing human biology and art.

We cover other areas as they come up naturally. We use books, the internet, my own knowledge gained through my social science and nursing degrees and the expertise of friends, music tutors and family. I fear that if we are made to go back to following the set curriculum, my daughter will stagnate and lose her excitement for learning. This is why I am one of many voicing concern and hoping these concerns will be respectfully considered when making legislation changes. Thank you for your time Respectfully, Sonia Smith