

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 722
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Submitter Comments:

I did not receive an email acknowledging my submission on the 17/03/2024, I have update this and resubmitted due to this. Dear Committee Members, I write to you with a sense of urgency and frustration regarding the proposed imposition of the national curriculum on homeschooling families. It is evident that there is a profound disconnect between the drafting of this legislation and the desires and needs of homeschooling families like mine. A neurodiverse family of 5 homeschooled children that also have complex medical requirements and learning difficulties. Let me be unequivocally clear: homeschooling families do not wish to follow the national curriculum. That is why 80% (A MAJORITY) DO NOT USE THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM. We firmly believe that we can and have been providing a high-quality education for our children without being shackled by its restrictive, limiting, and shallow constraints. Rather than serving as a guide for excellence, the national curriculum operates as a minimum standard document designed for teachers who undergo years of training to interpret and implement it effectively. For homeschooling families, the national curriculum represents a yoke that threatens to stifle the boundless potential of our children. We aspire for more—more creativity, more depth, more relevance, and more individualization tailored to the unique strengths and interests of each child. We refuse to allow this bureaucratic imposition to slow us down in our pursuit of educational excellence. If the committee truly wishes to be educated on homeschooling, I extend an invitation to witness firsthand the incredible achievements of my 5 children. I am proud to showcase the remarkable projects, accomplishments, and growth that stand as a testament to the power and effectiveness of homeschooling. These achievements do not align with the national curriculum—and that is precisely the point. These achievements include but not limited to training 2 Assistance dogs, volunteering for local miniature steam train organisation and obtaining his licence at 14.5 yrs old to drive 5 and 7 1/4 inc steam and other locomotives, working in a local café, exceling in digital creations of games and design, horseman ship and knowledge, sketching that is beyond their years. All this and more has been achieved by 5 children with disabilities that include Autism, Anxiety and a range of neurological disorders that include seizures and tic's. I am also extremely concerned that we haven't had reasonable opportunity to have our voices heard as major stakeholders that changes to this legislation will affect. Many families DID NOT receive an email from HEU office notifying them of the possibility of new legislation, so how were they to know of the changes and submission dates etc. There is NO official state homeschooling association in QLD, the ONLY two people representing the people directly, Amanda Bartle and Patricia Fitzgerald were actively excluded from representing us. Both Amanda and Patricia are well known to the EGPA review team and directors and were actively excluded, as was mentioned in the briefing. Therefore, how could my concerns or those of the homeschooling community be represented in the second round of consultation as there has been NO official association or person to represent us. In conclusion, I implore the committee to listen to the voices of homeschooling families and to respect our autonomy in crafting educational experiences that truly benefit our children. Reject the imposition of the national curriculum and instead support policies that promote flexibility, innovation, and parental choice in homeschooling. I do support changing the legal age to finish homeschooling to 18. Thank you for your attention and consideration. Sincerely, Angela Narayan Homeschooling Parent of over 8 years and Advocate