

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

**Submission No:** 759  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

As someone deeply invested in the education of my children, I've made the conscious choice to homeschool, recognizing that the mainstream educational system may not always suit or, in some cases, can even harm children. Over the years, I've had the privilege of teaching many children through volunteering at my child's school. Each child had their own unique learning styles, interests, and needs. These experiences have provided me with invaluable insights into the challenges and opportunities of homeschooling. I firmly believe that without lived experience, it's challenging to fully grasp the intricacies of homeschooling and to understand what legislative measures are truly needed to ensure homeschooled 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 personalized, holistic education tailored to their children's individual needs and aspirations. Despite working very closely with several schools and a team of allied health professionals, sadly, mainstream school was unable to provide the necessary environment and learning content to engage my child adequately and consistently. While the Australian curriculum may be presented as a superior option, it's essential to acknowledge that it's just one of many possibilities. For some children, it may indeed be adequate, but for others, it may not align with their learning preferences or life goals. This underscores the importance of offering diverse schooling options and supporting parents in making informed decisions about their children's education. Further, proposed changes will take time away from homeschool educators as they scramble to extensively plan, record and report progress in alignment with Australian curriculum criteria. These changes are also likely to lead to experiences of discrimination against families with disability, neurodivergence, giftedness and other family circumstances such as health status or religion.

Consultation with the active Homeschool community on the current bill under consideration has not been done. It is noted that consultation occurred however THIS bill was not in existence then. Due consultation with the homeschooling community on the current bill should be a minimum requirement before this bill is allowed to proceed. In conclusion, I urge the committee to approach homeschooling legislation with a deep appreciation for the lived experiences of homeschooling families and a commitment to ensuring that all children have access to a quality education that meets their unique needs. By listening to the voices of homeschooling parents and advocating for policies that promote flexibility, autonomy, and inclusivity, we can create a more equitable and responsive educational system for all. Thank you for considering my perspective.