

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 783
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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Submitter Comments:

To the Committee members,

I strongly disagree with the proposed changes to the Education Bill 2024.

My children are currently 18 and 14 years old. I have home-schooled them the whole way. Last year my eldest completed a Cert IV in Youth Work and a traineeship while he worked up to 50 hours a week running programs on school camps. This year he is completing two diplomas while he continues to gain valuable experience. Next year he plans to head to university. This is BECAUSE I homeschooled him. I could give him the extra time he needed, the extra care he needed, and the confidence he needed. We kept up with English and Math but our eldest was an avid learner and there was no point following a curriculum when he did a university course on Astronomy at just twelve years of age! He was also running the Newtonian telescope for the community on Friday nights. That is just ONE example of an in-depth learning experience that he had BECAUSE he was homeschooled.

My children thrive in an educational environment that prioritises exploration of real-world experiences and allows for tailored learning experiences that align with their individual interests and needs. It is my conviction that confining their education to the constraints of an antiquated curriculum would hinder their ability to fully engage with modern educational perspectives and adapt to the challenges of our rapidly evolving world. Our youngest is battling some serious health conditions. If he was in the school system, he wouldn't have been able to attend for the majority of last year as we navigated his new life. Due to his homeschooling, I could pick times to help him learn, we could school from bed if he couldn't get into his wheelchair, and if it was all too much we could back off and take care of his mental health instead. If he was in the school system, they could not make these accommodations and he would not have time to do the therapy that has him walking for short spurts.

My husband and I both hold university degrees. We take the education of our children so seriously that we decided we were the ones most invested. It is an overreach of the government to get involved in parental decisions. We rigorously report to the home education unit, and we have never had an issue with passing our reports or plans. The Home Education Unit sent me a personal letter after I submitted my last report, expressing how moved they were by how many accommodations we had made to help our son with his health and learning. They congratulated us on how well we were doing and wished our son all the best for the coming year. If that isn't evidence that we are providing a well-rounded education that is tailored to our children's needs, I don't know what is! I can certainly tell you that it isn't the Australian Curriculum.

Please consider getting to know the home school community before you make changes. Making these changes will be very detrimental to many families.

Sincerely,

