

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 805
Submitted by: Megan Jones
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

My name is Megan Jones, I am a mother of three children aged 7, 9 and 11. We homeschool in the beautiful Lockyer Valley. It is our goal and constant pursuit to provide our children with a wide and varied high quality education, it has become a way of life for us. We know our children well and understand their needs, giftings, interests and challenges. As a homeschooling parent I am aware that I bear the responsibility to offer my children an education that serves them both now and into the future. I am happy to bear that responsibility, knowing that I have their best interests in mind. The freedom that homeschooling affords us to cater to the individual needs of each child is truly precious to us and the way the HEU has enabled that freedom to date has been wonderful. We started out with a distance education school in 2018 and transitioned to the HEU in 2022. New strict and rigid policies came into effect with the distance education school at this time. The reason for our switch was that our eldest child was performing at a high standard in mathematics at a grade level above her age and had been doing so with no problem since 2018. When the new policies were implemented the school insisted that unless my child met with a psychologist she would have to regress to her age/grade level in mathematics, even though she had already completed those units with excellent results. This was so unreasonable to us that we made the decision to leave. Our child was understandably upset and resistant to go back and re-do what she had already completed and then be constrained to the pace set by the school. Again, the freedom that we have surrounding the education we offer to our children is very important to us.

Since enrolling with the HEU I have adopted the goal based planning option for our family and have had successful submissions of plans and progress reports. The ACARA model does not fit in well with the style of our studies and is more suited to a classroom setting. We love to study multiple subjects (excluding english and maths) together as a family, with each child participating at their own level. This has led to wonderful conversations and learning opportunities as we engage in discussions together. This, too, would not be possible under ACARA. Our children are thriving with home education and the opportunities that it affords them to explore their interests and talents along the way as they enjoy their childhood. The freedom that now exists surrounding curriculum and resource choices and the style with which we can present knowledge to our students is the strength of home education under the HEU and I know many other homeschooling parents that feel the same way. We ask and implore you to protect the individuality of home education and place a high value on freedom of choice for every family when it comes to these choices. More paperwork, more testing and more boxes to check will not improve the education of our children. Thank you for taking the time to read my submission. Sincerely, Megan Jones