

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 834
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Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed changes to homeschooling policies, particularly the suggestion to mandate homeschooling children to follow the Australian National Curriculum. Two out of my fifteen grandchildren are home-schooled and let me assure you, the homeschooled ones are the most well-adjusted, kind-hearted, and open-minded boys you could ever meet. Their parents are both university-trained and they have put a lot of effort into their children. They follow their interests and weave learning into all that they do. To place restrictions on how they will be home-schooled moving forward will stifle their creativity and individuality.

Please remember that people choose to home-school for many reasons. One of the main reasons is that the school system, and the Australian Curriculum, does not provide all children with what they need to thrive. Given the existing accessibility to curriculum resources and the varied approaches adopted by homeschooling families, the rationale behind the proposed changes appears disconnected from the actual needs and practices of the homeschooling community. It is essential to consider the implications of imposing additional regulations on families who have deliberately chosen to homeschool. I urge the committee to engage in meaningful dialogue with homeschooling families to better understand the diverse needs and perspectives.

Sincerely,

Ian Macdonald