

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

**Submission No:** 841  
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**Submitter Comments:**



Dear Selection Committee Members

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed changes to the Education Act, specifically changes in Section 217 clause 68, pertaining to homeschooling.

The proposed changes mandate adherence to a standardised curriculum in some unspecified way, therein disregarding the reasons why many families choose homeschooling in the first place.

The education system in Australia has been in decline, evident in part by the drastic increase in students and teachers choosing to home educate.

I do not want to dismiss the bill completely, this reform is desperately needed but teachers, schools and parents need to be consulted before any legislation is passed.

The Australian curriculum is a complex document created in the attempt to encapsulate a variety of learning methods and levels of comprehension for a large number of students with diverse capabilities, to set a consistent baseline for schools across the nation.

As a home educator with a particularly bright child I cover the Australian curriculum, British curriculum and the Cambridge International Baccalaureate.

I find the Australian curriculum to be a minimum, quickly moving on to what could be considered higher grade work because the curriculum content is insufficient to fill my child's learning needs.

By now you have most certainly been inundated with a flood of negative responses to this proposed change and I would like to add my voice to the chorus on this specific clause.

My concern is inline with what others have already said, but additionally I would like you to consider the practicality of implementing this change.

How will the Queensland Home Education Unit enforce the adherence of home educators to the curriculum?

Who is going to be ensuring that the increasing number of education plans that parents submit adhere to all the strands, content descriptors and elaborations dictated by the curriculum across all subjects for that child's specific level?

How will the average parent be supported in deciphering the curriculum and who will provide the necessary feedback when parents fail to be consistent with the curriculum?

Last I checked the education system already has a teacher shortage, lots of them are here homeschooling their kids now.

I understand NSW has a framework for implementing their Syllabus, yet I know a lot of parents rely heavily on "back mapping"; they teach as they please, then look at what the child has learnt and try to relate that to the curriculum. There is a disassociation between their child's learning and the report they are forced to submit. The report and plan are meant to be useful assessment and subsequent planning tools that assist parents in their role as teachers, but in NSW and in some schools, it has become a pointless burden at best.

I digress, rather I would have you inquire as to the purpose of this specific change to the legislation. It is proposed under the intention of improving the quality of education for home educated children.

A noble cause on paper only, there's no evidence that there is a lack of quality education at home, and its implementation is a potential quagmire of paperwork and staff shortages.

Regards,

Leacia Chown