

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

**Submission No:** 884  
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### Submitter Comments:

I live with my husband and 3 children, aged 13, 11 and 8. We live on some land along with my husband's parents. We chose to homeschool in 2019, not because of any issues with the school they were attending, but because we wanted to spend time with our children. To build a strong family unit. Since we took our two oldest out of school, (our youngest was not of school age then) we have not looked back. We have never questioned our decision to home educate. When I first started teaching my children, I noticed just how many gaps were in their education. My oldest age 9 at the time, couldn't tell the time, struggled with most math and couldn't spell simple words. I realized then that the quiet ones who don't cause disruptions in the classroom, don't get the help they need and often get overlooked. My second child, age 7 at the time, was easily led by peers and was often the child being pulled up for behaviour issues. He loved learning but would get distracted by friends in the classroom. We helped fill the gaps our oldest child had and we helped our middle child learn to focus on the work at hand. Our youngest child has never been to school but has been reading since she was 3 years old and started reading chapter books (The little house on the prairie and other big books) by herself at 5 years old. Why did I tell you all of this? Because none of it came from using the Australian Curriculum. I believe that ACARA is useful, and probably needed in school settings, but at home we are able to use programs that work better for our children's needs.

We can tailor the programs we use to suit our children and help us while teaching different age groups. We use some Australian curriculum, but it does not suit every subject for us. Because we home educate, because we can choose how big our school days are, what we focus on and if we need to spend more time on a particular subject, our children are happier. They have built strong relationships with each other. Our oldest has been able to find out where his interests lie. He bought some bees and is learning how to look after them, problem solve and harvest honey. He has made timber tables, chopping boards and is always outside fixing problems on the farm. Our middle child is out feeding the animals, problem solving when it comes to predators on the land, making timber creations and is very active outside. Our youngest is learning to sew, knit and bake. She has also learnt how to draw amazing pictures from Youtube videos. They finish their formal learning within 3-4 hours and have the rest of the day to find what interests them. They all spend a lot of time reading, they can have beautiful conversations with older people in the community and learn a lot where we live. They are not missing out by not following the curriculum. They are thriving in this environment we have all helped create at home. My husband and I have our children's best interests in mind when teaching them. Following the Australian Curriculum will increase their work load take away any free time they have to follow their own interests. I do not believe that this bill, in its current form, is in the best interest of our children.