

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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SUBMISSION

EDUCATION (GENERAL PROVISIONS) AND OTHER LEGISLATION MENDMENT BILL 2024

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my personal experience as a homeschooling parent and to emphasize the invaluable learning opportunities that homeschooling has provided for my children. I write on behalf of not only myself but also my children, as we strongly oppose the proposed changes in homeschooling legislation, particularly the requirement to follow the Australian curriculum and the requirement for parents to prove that home education is in the best interest of the child.

I have two children that I have home educated for several years now. My oldest daughter went through the mainstream schooling system until high school. Although a highly academic student, she suffered severe anxiety daily. Upon commencing our home education journey with her, she was able to breathe and create and develop a version of herself that would not have existed whilst in mainstream school, due to time restraints and her severe anxiety.

Using our personalised learning approach, our encouragement and support, our daughter established a successful ecommerce business that has been operating for three years now. She completed an undergraduate degree at 15. She has since moved to completing a bachelor's degree of Architecture at our local University campus. She's sixteen years old. All of this would not be possible if she was required to follow the Australian Curriculum or forced to attend a local school.

Our youngest is twelve. He is neurodivergent. He has an autism diagnosis of level 2. He also has hypertonia and a tics diagnosis. Our son was lost in the mainstream school system. He requires one-on-one support, multiple prompts to stay focussed and interest led learning as much as possible. He is acquiring academic knowledge but also very important life skills. His brain retains information very different from typical children and he deserves to be educated accordingly. Since commencing homeschooling, he has made friends. He has never had friends. He is actively participating in the community. He is thriving.

My background is working within the special education facility within a government state school. I witnessed firsthand the lack of support children, like my son, received due to not being a risk to others or having behavioural issues. His support was given to children that quite often weren't even within the special education facility, but they made a lot of noise. My son is quiet and never one to draw unwanted attention or be disrespectful.

In conclusion, I ask the committee to approach homeschooling legislation with a deeper understanding of why homeschooling families choose to home educate and a commitment to ensuring that all children have access to a quality education that meets their unique needs. By listening to homeschooling parents and advocating for policies that promote flexibility, autonomy, and inclusivity, we can create a more equitable and responsive educational system for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter.



Homeschooling parent and advocate