

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: EGPA Bill
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Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, in particular the changes to home education. None of my four kids have been in care or to a mainstream school. When my wife chose to be responsible for our kids' education and not send our eldest to pre school, I had reservations. I had never known anyone who had been homeschooled and had the usual cliché questions about "socialisation" and "knowing how to be around other kids" and "knowing what to teach them". Years later, I am yet to see any evidence on paper or in society to suggest that my kids would be receiving a higher standard of education and be better people if they were in mainstream schooling or if they were following the Australian Curriculum at home.

The proposed legislation raises concerns for me that I oppose and believe need to be addressed. Firstly, the term "high-quality program of education" is undefined and undermines the hours of love, sweat and tears that my wife pours into our kids every single day. I believe that forcing us and the other 80% of homeschooling families who do not follow the Australian Curriculum would stifle my kids interests and curiosities and take time spent with our kids away from us due to increased planning and reporting. That being with our kids in their most valuable years is the cornerstone of why we homeschool, impeding on this by mandating following the Australian Curriculum is of serious concern. Perhaps the department and its ministers would do well to look into the reasons families are leaving mainstream education at increasing rates and consider their own accountability and the shortcomings of society and government at large, rather than further mandate and impose on our legal rights and further alienate us from the education system. We choose to homeschool for many reasons, none of which should we need to explain to the government. Our kids are loved and valued and supported every day to be good people and members of society. They are intelligent, aware, empathetic, and self motivated learners. I am told regularly by my own employees, other business associates, kids sporting mentors and coaches, friends and acquaintances, how refreshing it is to interact with my own children. That they are bright, friendly, emotionally aware, and a pleasure to be around. It is my opinion that they are already receiving a high quality of education, with their safety and well-being being better than any other mainstream educated child I know, and to suggest mandates are what my family needs is an insult that I will not back down from. Furthermore, I am concerned that this legislation has been introduced to Parliament without proper consultation with homeschooling families. I urge you to carefully, honestly and openly consider the best interests of the homeschooling community and thus our community at large.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and hear my experience and concerns. I look forward to your response.

Regards,
Joshua Taylor

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