

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Changes to Homeschooling Legislation
Date: Friday, 22 March 2024 11:06:10 AM

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed changes in homeschooling legislation, particularly the requirement to follow a specific curriculum.

I am not a homeschooling parent. I have chosen to send my children to mainstream school for a variety of personal reasons, including economic reasons. I am, however, an educator. I value attempts to benchmark and streamline education delivered by teachers in schools, via the Australian National Curriculum. I have first-hand experience as a teacher educating 28+ students at a time. In my observation, teachers welcome some guidance as to what and how to teach, and benchmarks to assess their teaching performance against, so we can feel successful in the job we are doing and ensuring best practice.

Having said this, I have concerns about trying to enforce standardisation of this nature in the homeschooling sphere of education. Whilst I don't homeschool myself, I have looked into it for our family, because it offers a unique and potentially optimised learning option for some children and families for a multitude of reasons (physical, social, emotional, mental health, etc). I understand that schools try to implement adjusted educational plans for students who need them, and these are important. However, when children require individualised education plans, this takes away from the very limited time and attention the teacher already has for other students in the class. When there are two or more students with specialised needs there is even less to go around for students generally.

Hence, I can see the value in homeschooling families wanting to educate their own children, to give them the time and specialised education they are conscientiously sacrificing other things to provide. I would want this for myself and my own family as well, if and when I choose to access it. From my perspective, the essence of homeschooling lies in the freedom it affords children to learn in a manner that aligns with individual needs, interests, skills, abilities, and learning styles. I notice that the Australian National Curriculum is available to all and many homeschool families draw upon it, some even follow it completely, as suits their own children's learning needs. However, I can see the value in home educators being able to discern and draw on other robust curriculums, very well suited to 1:1, 1:2, or even 1:5 educator to student ratios, and support students to thrive.

My significant concern is that by imposing a mandated curriculum, these proposed changes stand to impede this valuable alternative to a school-based education, resulting in worsened rather than improved outcomes for children and society as intended. From my perspective, the best interest of children is likely to be served by maintaining real and distinct options for children and families, and supporting children and families to make mindful and informed decisions about educational matters, as suits their individualised needs.

I understand that the Home Education Unit requires home schooling parents to submit regular reporting on their chosen methodologies with evidence of work samples and with justification for chosen educational choices. I feel this is a way to ensure that home school students' academic needs are being met with rigour and encourages parents to register their children as per the legislation.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Kellie Wilson (Concerned Community Member)

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