

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Proposed changes to homeschooling
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To whom it may concern,

I would like to voice my extreme disappointment concerning the proposed changes to homeschool legislation and explain some of the reasons why it is so concerning.

I am a mother of 4 children. My 2 eldest were in private school until the end of grades 2 and 4. We then enrolled them in a distance education school and had a great experience there. They were homeschooled until the last 3 years of high school. The curriculum that was used at the DE school was excellent but this was before the Australian curriculum standards came into effect. That curriculum is no longer available as it was US-based. In my opinion, this makes no sense at all. It would be like saying you would not accept a high school student who moved to Australia from the US and was always educated with the US curriculum. I know that would not be the case, so why, therefore, if families here in Australia still prefer to use the overseas curriculum, would this not be ok? I know that my older girls had a FAR superior understanding in terms of English and Math to their day school peers when they entered back into a day school.

I now have my 2 youngest that I am homeschooling with a DE provider and I am becoming increasingly discouraged. My 2 youngest have been in private schools exclusively since prep. My girls are now in years 7 and 9. They struggle to comprehend basics in their year levels despite always bringing home satisfactory school reports. I have just run them through some diagnostic testing for Math and English with the previous US school curriculum to find that at years 7 and 9 they are only scoring at a year 3 level. Both of them! How is this a good report for the school system or the Australian curriculum standards?

Please do not make life any more unnecessarily stressful and cumbersome for parents wanting to provide their kids with a sound education and a good foundation for their future.

I read on a post somewhere recently that mention was made of a homeschooled child who committed suicide and that somehow it was being used to imply that homeschooling needs more governmental intervention. By that logic then, what of the many more children that commit suicide that are enrolled in the school system? Does that mean that the reason for their suicide is somehow the fault of the school system?

It would appear that some in the government are deliberately trying to imply that homeschoolers do not have the best interest of their children at the forefront. This is by far not the case.

Please do not allow unnecessary pressure and stress to be placed on homeschoolers and their children to follow Australian standards across the board. It is a gross overreach.

I chose not to provide my name and details as I wish to remain anonymous.