

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

**Submission No:** 1041  
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Dear Committee

I am a home educating parent and mother of five children aged 19, 17, 11, 9 and 6. This is my 15th year home educating my children.

I write to you to express my concern about the proposed changes to the homeschool legislation (Education Bill 2024).

Removal of provisional registration - For children who are under distress at school due to bullying, social anxiety and numerous other reasons parents need to be able to remove the child immediately rather than waiting for permission and having to learn about curriculum choices and write up an acceptable learning plan before they can protect their child by removing them from the damaging environment. This issue was raised during the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 Public Briefing on the 18th of March and it seems the concern is children missing weeks or months of education while under provisional registration. The fact is that many homeschool families take a break from formal education while they deal with their child's mental and emotional health when leaving the school system. Unlike school where missing a day or a week or a month of school means a child misses educational content, a home educated child does not miss lessons. Home Education is a far more efficient means of education than school and educational material is covered more quickly in the home making missed time irrelevant for home educated children.

Proof that home education is in the best interests of the child - Home education is a valid and legal option for all parents. Though many parents choose to home educate because the school system does not work for their child, many of us choose to home educate because we believe home education is the best for our families because of religious reasons or because we believe an education tailored to our child's interests and abilities and provided by loving parent is the best education our child can have. We should no more have to prove that home education is in the best interests of our child than we have to prove why we chose public or private school education. All three methods of education are equally valid and legal.

Use of the Australian National Curriculum to plan, teach and report - One of the great advantages of home education is the ability of parents to tailor the education to our child's interest, abilities and needs. Personally I use curricula from multiple companies and source information from a variety of places such as online, the library and community experts. As adults if we want to learn something we research on the internet, we sign up for an online course, we read books, we find a community member who has that skill and is willing to teach us, as home educator we approach learning in the same way often diving deeper in to a subject than the National Curriculum allows time for.

I have three primary schooled children who are enjoying the home education lifestyle and two teenagers, both of whom were home educated from the beginning. One is doing a diploma of counselling currently and the other is a carpentry apprentice. Home education

has allowed one of them to follow his passions and the other time to discover himself. We love our family centred lifestyle and the freedom and closeness it brings.

Thank you for taking my thoughts into consideration.

Kylie Anderson

