

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1074
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For the attention of The Committee,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, to enforce the national curriculum on homeschooling families, particularly with respect to its potential impact on children with diverse learning needs, including my own.

As a homeschooling parent, I have had the privilege of tailoring my children's education to meet their individual strengths, weakness and learning styles. This flexibility has allowed us to create a personalised learning environment that nurtures their intellectual curiosity and fosters a love of learning. However, mandated adherence to the national curriculum would severely restrict this flexibility and could hinder my children's educational progress.

One of the primary reasons families choose to homeschool is to provide an alternative to traditional schooling that better accommodates the unique needs of their children. This could include accommodating learning disabilities, giftedness, developmental delays, or other special needs. By imposing a one-size-fits-all curriculum, the proposed amendments risks neglecting the diverse learning needs of homeschooling children, potentially exacerbating educational inequalities rather than addressing them.

Furthermore, the national curriculum may not adequately address the specific interests and passions of my children. Forcing them to adhere to a predetermined curriculum could stifle their enthusiasm for learning and impede their overall academic development.

Additionally, homeschooling allows for a more holistic approach to education, integrating real-life experiences, community resources, and individualised instruction. Mandating adherence to the national curriculum would undermine the authority of homeschooling families and limit their ability to provide a well-rounded education that extends far beyond academic achievement.

I strongly urge you to reconsider enforcing the national curriculum on homeschooling families. Instead, I advocate for policies that support and empower homeschooling parents to continue providing personalised education that meets the diverse needs of their children. By preserving the flexibility and autonomy of homeschooling, we can ensure that all children, including those with diverse learning needs, can thrive academically and personally.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,
Emma Corfield