

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Advocating for informed legislation on homeschooling
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Dear Committee Members,

As someone deeply invested in the education of my children, I've made the conscious choice to homeschool, recognizing that the mainstream educational system may not always suit or, in some cases, can even harm children. Over the years, I've had the privilege of homeschooling 3 children, each with their unique learning styles, interests, and needs. These experiences have provided me with invaluable insights into the challenges and opportunities of homeschooling.

I firmly believe that without lived experience, it's challenging to fully grasp the intricacies of homeschooling and to understand what legislative measures are truly needed to ensure homeschooled children receive a quality education. It's not merely about enforcing rigid curriculum requirements but rather about fostering an environment that empowers parents to provide personalized, holistic education tailored to their children's individual needs and aspirations.

While the Australian curriculum may be presented as a superior option, it's essential to acknowledge that it's just one of many possibilities. For some children, it may indeed be adequate, but for others, it may not align with their learning preferences or life goals. This underscores the importance of offering diverse schooling options and supporting parents in making informed decisions about their children's education.

Each of my 3 children have needed different approaches to their learning and if we had been forced to adhere strictly to the Australian curriculum they would merely be ticking boxes and not actually be engaged in their learning. When we can tailor their learning towards their passions and interests they are more fully involved and personally invested in their own learning journeys.

In discussing the potential changes to the legislation my children each had very strong thoughts on the matter.

[REDACTED] who is 14 says that a flexible learning programme has allowed her the time and mental space to be able to learn more about herself and what she thinks about the things going on around her and gives her the freedom to pursue learning about topics she is really interested in rather than getting stressed out about having to finish everything on every subject that might be laid out in the Australian curriculum for her year level.

[REDACTED] who is 16 says that there are so many ways to learn. It's better to find ways to help kids learn by giving them the chance to study things they are interested in and not make students all learn the same stuff that is not even going to be of any use to them in the future.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to approach homeschooling legislation with a deep appreciation for the lived experiences of homeschooling families and a commitment to ensuring that all children have access to a quality education that meets their unique needs. By listening to the voices of homeschooling parents and advocating for policies that promote flexibility, autonomy, and inclusivity, we can create a more equitable and responsive educational system for all.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,

Tanya Killingbeck

