

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1110

Submitted by: [REDACTED]

Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name

Attachments:

Submitter Comments:

I am writing to make a submission against proposed changes to section 217 of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the recently published Child Death Review Board report for 2022-23 and how the section 217 changes in this piece of legislation have good intentions to help prevent such a tragic event happening again to students undertaking Home Education again. However, there are other ways that could prevent this happening again besides the proposed section 217 changes, including looking at how other jurisdictions regulate Home Education reporting and curriculum such as New Zealand, Canada and Papua New Guinea. Secondly, my spouse is a Home Educator to two young children and therefore these changes will have an impact on my daily life, so I thank the Committee for the opportunity to make a submission to add my two cents worth. Thirdly, I am concerned mainly about the change to section 217 about using an "approved education and training program" to limit students to registered with the Home Education Unit students to only use an ACARA approved curriculum and/or Senior Subject Syllabus and/or a Vocational Educational Training Course. Allow me to elaborate... Currently I choose to use parts of an ACARA curriculum because I feel it suits my child's interests, but use other curriculums that go beyond the ACARA curriculum. I am concerned that having to cover all of the ACARA curriculum will mean that I will have to spend more money on buying resources, all of which would be too much during a cost of living crisis. For instance under this legislation, I would now need to teach my child languages other than English when they start their foundation year and buy a supporting curriculum to teach AUSLAN or another language, when previously I could elect to do this later on once they had mastered learning English and Maths. These changes to section 217 will no doubt increase the compliance costs of Home Education. In conclusion, thanks for the opportunity to make this submission. Overall, the challenge for us to comply with the section 217 changes would be too costly to comply with for my family budget and broadening of the subjects covered would slow down my children's learning progress. Whatever the State Government of the day decides to do with section 217 of the Act following this inquiry, me and my family will have to comply with it and will respect their judgement.