

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1121
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name

Attachments:

Submitter Comments:

Dear Education, Employment, Training And Skills Committee, I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed changes to home education laws and requirements outlined in the recent political bill - Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. As a grandparent who has witnessed the positive impact of homeschooling on my three grandchildren, I feel compelled to voice my opposition to these changes. One of the most significant benefits of homeschooling that I have observed is the growth and self-confidence it has instilled in my grandchildren. They have thrived in this environment, becoming independent learners who are not afraid to explore new ideas and concepts. The ability for their parents to personalise their learning journey has been instrumental in their success, allowing them to thrive academically and emotionally. Homeschooling has been particularly beneficial for our grandchildren, all of whom are on the autism spectrum. The school environment was not conducive to the well-being of our eldest grandchild, who attended school in the early years. However, she now thrives in the homeschooling environment, and we have seen similar positive results with our other two grandchildren. They have excelled in this environment, learning at their own pace and surpassing their peers in many areas. For example, our grandson learned to read at the age of eight, much later than the traditional school age, but quickly progressed to reading novels well beyond his years due to his readiness and enthusiasm for learning. I am particularly concerned about the proposal to change the requirements for home education students to adhere strictly to the Australian curriculum. This approach is limiting and does not allow for outside-the-box thinking and learning opportunities. Forcing them to follow a standardised curriculum would not only hinder their academic progress but also stifle their creativity and individuality. Additionally, it fails to provide for university, alternative learning styles, or international curriculum programs, limiting the children's educational opportunities. I do not support the proposed changes, as they would undermine the high standard of education provided to homeschooling children. Furthermore, the increased workload and reporting requirements outlined in the bill are unjustifiable and place an undue burden on home educators. This one-size-fits-all approach does not recognize the unique circumstances and challenges faced by homeschooling families, including those with children with disabilities, neurodivergence, or gifted development. In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the proposed changes to home education laws and requirements. Homeschooling families should have the right to choose how to educate and support their children in a way that best suits their individual needs and circumstances. The proposed legislation threatens to infringe upon this fundamental right and must be revised to ensure that homeschooling remains a viable and valuable educational option. Thank you for considering my concerns. I trust that you will make the right decision for the future of education in our state. Sincerely, [REDACTED] 24/03/2024