

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1130
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Attachments: See attachment
Submitter Comments:

24th March 2024

Dear Committee Members,

It has come to my attention that there are several concerning updates being made to the EDUCATION (GENERAL PROVISIONS) and OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024. Of particular concern, is the unnecessary change requiring homeschooling families to use the Australian Curriculum as evidence of a high-quality education. Also of concern is the removal of provisional registration as it has been available. I strongly oppose the changes suggested and would respectfully request the committee to listen to the voices of many homeschooling families who were not consulted with any inkling of the proposed legislation in mind. Those who do represent our QLD community were actively excluded from the consultation, and our family has received NO correspondence from the HEU regarding this proposed legislation and consultation process.

I am a father of four young children and our transition from mainstream schooling to homeschooling was not smooth. After four long years of regular school refusal from my eldest and one year of distressed behaviour from our 2nd eldest, our family decided something had to change. Before moving across to full homeschooling, our children began the disaster that was 'school at home' – state distance education using the Australian Curriculum at home. Our children were disengaged and struggling within a very short time with little support from the well-intentioned teachers.

One of my children has been diagnosed with ADHD and Autism with extreme difficulty managing demands and staying focused on material that does not engage her. My wife was spending every waking hour trying to support our children with their learning to tick curriculum 'boxes', and I was trying to focus on my work all day, then returning to a home filled with distressed, crying children and a very stressed and tired wife. The demands and paperwork required were too much, particularly when a child is not able to engage with the topics without significant support. **There are so many high-quality and age-appropriate resources available to homeschooling families now – why restrict families to the Australian Curriculum?**

When our family moved across to home schooling, it was a lifeline that the provisional registration process existed. The mental health of our whole family was at stake and we needed a soft landing after the distress of mainstream school and distance education. One daughter was so traumatised by her school experience, we were recommended by her psychologist to 'deschool' for a period of time to allow her to heal and recover. We spent time meeting other homeschool families in low pressure activities. We spent time with our children in exploration, to better understand their learning needs. **We were not 'doing nothing' in that provisional registration time – we**

were learning our children's interests and learning styles, trialling resources and making our plan. To remove provisional registration will be detrimental to families already in crisis.

Thank you for your consideration of our family's experience in using the Australian Curriculum in a 1-1 home environment via distance education, and our use of the provisional registration period of time. Di Farmer has tabled this Legislation without due consultation to families like ours, and consulting only with agencies/authorities/businesses is not acceptable or reflective of our democratic country. I am grateful for the opportunity to express my concerns and contribute to meaningful discussion around this proposed Legislation.

Yours sincerely,

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX