

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1142
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For the attention of The Committee

This is my submission on objections to the proposed changes in the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislations Amendment Bill 2024.

I am writing to you with my concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the education bill that has recently been presented to parliament. As a home educating parent, I do not support these changes that have been introduced, and I am worried about the impact that they will have on my family and the homeschooling community.

For six years, I have dedicated myself to homeschooling my two children, diligently producing reports on their education to our government, showcasing their progress and achievements. Every year, I receive the same standardized response, affirming our compliance with requirements and confirming I have implemented a high quality education.

My objections to the proposal are as follows:

1. **Government Determination of 'Suitable' Educational Environment:** Parents choose homeschooling because they believe it is the most suitable educational environment for their child. The government's attempt to dictate what constitutes a suitable environment infringes upon our rights as parents to make decisions in the best interest of our children. We should retain the choice to homeschool if that is what we deem best for our child, as homeschooling environments offer flexibility, variety, and customization essential for our children's successful integration into the diverse world we live in.
2. **Mandatory Use of Australian Curriculum:** Requiring mandatory use of the Australian Curriculum restricts many homeschoolers from providing an optimal educational experience tailored to their child's needs and interests. Research supports the importance of individualized, interest-led learning, which is better facilitated in a homeschooling setting than in traditional schools constrained by curriculum mandates. The comprehensive reports I've submitted to the Home Education Unit have consistently been recognized as providing a "high-quality education" Furthermore, no evidence has been presented to suggest that my educational plans are of lesser quality than those aligned with the Australian

Curriculum and I am deeply concerned that any deviation from my Education plans and methods may impact my children's educational progress negatively.

3. **Removal of 60-day Provisional Registration:** Removing the 60-day provisional registration period disadvantages families who need to start homeschooling unexpectedly for their child's well-being. 6 years ago, my son was one of these children. I did not have the support from all professionals then, however those same "experts" have been proven wrong and since acknowledged this when seeing the progress my son has made in areas of his life and education. In fact, they have informed me they have recommended homeschooling to other families.
4. **Reduction in Show Cause Response Time:** The reduction in the time to 'show cause' places undue pressure on parents, many of whom lack training and support in reporting requirements. Expectations and requirements on reporting should be clarified, simplified, and accepted in various formats to accommodate the diverse population of homeschooling families.
5. **Removal of Certificate:** Homeschooling is a valid and legal choice for education, and a certificate is more appropriate recognition for the important work homeschoolers do. Privacy concerns should be addressed, especially in cases of shared care arrangements where address details may need to be kept private for safety reasons.
6. **Reporting on 8 Different Key Learning Areas:** The requirement to report on 8 different Key Learning Areas imposes an excessive burden on homeschooling families, taking away valuable learning and planning time with our children. Reporting should be simplified to ensure it does not impede the educational process.

These proposed changes undermine parental autonomy, limit educational freedom, and create unnecessary burdens for homeschooling families. As parents, we deserve the right to choose the best educational path for our children.

Sincerely

Tiffany Boyd