

## Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 1157  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
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**Attachments:** See attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

**For the attention of The Committee,**

I am writing to express my deep concerns in regard to the proposed changes in the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislations Amendment Bill 2024.

I am a father of a homeschooling family due to my career in the resource sector. My career is very transient, and homeschooling has allowed my family the flexibility to move with me as the need arises. I believe this has been a key to the success of my career. Having my family move with me, has had a positive impact on my mental health by allowing me the option to go home to my family every night. It has also given me the opportunity to have a strong presence in my children's lives. Having the flexibility for them to move with me, I can be present at their sporting events and even offer a different perspective on learning; for example, when my wife was teaching our son fractions, I took him to the shed and taught him with spanners in my toolbox.

My wife and I decided to register our son for homeschooling 8 years ago when we were shocked to discover how far behind, he was in learning after being in a school environment for 3 years. I was asked to manage two sites, so my son was offered the opportunity to attend another school. On the first day at this other school, my wife and I were shocked to learn how far behind the other students he was due to the wide variation of teaching styles. My wife has selflessly given up her opportunity to further her career by staying home and homeschooling my family for the past 8 years. This was not a decision made lightly but one that was made out of necessity.

**I object to the proposal of Mandatory use of the Australian Curriculum.** My wife and I discuss her role as educator frequently and I see my children are learning above and beyond what the curriculum can offer them. I appreciate the flexibility homeschooling allows her to meet our children where they are at and the opportunity to delve deeper into topics as the need arises. As a father it is very satisfying to see my **children's enthusiasm to learn**. Over my career I have had the opportunity to work with apprentices straight from school and sadly many are missing that desire to learn. I see the difference in my children due to their **individualised learning plans** my wife writes for them and know they will be an asset to any future employee. I observe the many late nights my wife spends researching learning resources and topics of interest for my children. I feel if this bill was passed and she had to demonstrate academic progress across all subjects of the national curriculum in her reporting, myself and the children will lose more time with her. I would prefer to see the time spent educating my children. As a family we have heavily invested a lot of our personal family budget into educational resources.

**I also strongly object to the proposal within this bill in regard to the "best interest of the child".** I can't help but wonder how this is going to be decided upon and then implemented. As I am currently studying my Bachelor of mental health I am concerned as to how this change will affect not only my wife's and children's mental health, but the mental health of the homeschooling community as a whole. As a father I make many sacrifices for my family and even take annual leave days in order to drive them to homeschooling social days and events, homeschool camps and sporting events. The safety of my family is paramount to me, and I can't help but feel a little insulted with this inclusion in the bill.

Thank you for considering this perspective.