

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

**Submission No:** 1224  
**Submitted by:** Clare Todd  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** See attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

Dear Committee Members,

This is a letter submission from Clare Todd, a home schooler and day schooler. I do not write with lack of experience from either day school, or home school, nor do I write with an unenlightened, or unfair bias. I write with the welfare of future generations in mind, and I intend to homeschool my children when the time comes.

In response to the current legislation waiting to be passed concerning the Home Education Unit, I, as a Homeschool graduate of 2023, have a few things for you to reconsider before passing this legislation.

Having experienced both day school and homeschool, I can say with confidence that homeschooling can provide better results for students because of its unique curriculum which is available to be personalized for each child. Regarding content, parents, as the legal carers for their children, have the right to know, if not discern, what their children are learning. Homeschooling also provides a more relationship-based education because of its homey nature. I disagree with the legislation which suggests that a child should only homeschool *'if it is in the best interest of the child.'* From my experience, it is best when the parents are able to make the choice of what method of education their children receive.

People are not box shaped; therefore, every single child cannot fit into a 'one size fits all' deal. An education tailored to each child is a great option to have because it provides for each of the children's differences. Day schools claim to provide a wide range of opportunities to learn from, but these opportunities are shallow, and the schools do not possess the time to teach the children in proper depth what these subjects entail. I can attest to this, as my siblings and I are all very different regarding what we are interested in. Knowing this, our parents found the resources and the means for us to learn the things we needed to, and now we all have jobs, which we enjoy, in those specific areas. And these things we learned were not necessarily a part of the Australian curriculum.

Concerning the content of what is being taught to children, the parents of the children, as the legal guardians, should have the right to choose what content is being taught to their children, and when. I have observed how teachers act like the parents of their students, how they have a sort of responsibility to teach them things a parent would, but this is a role which should be the parent's. And yet, as teachers take on this role, it becomes difficult to care deeply, as a parent would, about so many children. Homeschooling, our parents have taught us the things they needed to, loved us and watched us grow, in a way paid teachers cannot. Similarly, the government cannot possibly care for the multitude of children individually to the extent that this legislation suggests. While teachers cannot form attachments to their students who cycle through every few years, homeschooling displays relational based learning.

Where children are not only free to but are encouraged to build relationships with their parents and siblings. As well as developing skills to interact with people of all ages, homeschoolers enjoy learning in a well-known, and safe environment, providing a more enjoyable learning experience. Having been in a day school and having had amazingly passionate teachers I know that they still do not possess the capacity to love all their students to the extent that a parental figure does.

My main issue with the legislation is that it takes away the choice of curriculum and consequently, the flexibility that homeschooling currently offers. Removing this option is simply taking away the reason to homeschool. In updating the legislation in order to have a singular curriculum, you will be taking away parents' freedom to find a preferred curriculum for their children and will be potentially hindering children in following a career/life path they could have had.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Clare Todd.

Clare Todd