

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

RE: Amendments to Home Education regulations We are home educating our child (since 2020), after the announcement of the COVID pandemic. It is because of this incident that we have discovered that our child is not receiving the quality of education that we expect from the school he was enrolled in from Prep to Yr 2. 1. In particular, the requirement that the "educational program used for the child's home education must -- xx (ii) be consistent with an approved education and training program xx". For us, education is not just about the curriculum. While we are constantly checking the Australian curriculum as we home educate our child, we only use the curriculum as a guide to where our child is in relation/comparison to other children his age and abilities as determined by the government that has not consulted us about what should be included in the ACARA. We refuse to program our lives and our child's education based on an "approved education and training program" just to tick the boxes. After seeing what the schools teach at his previous school, we can see that the ACARA has not adapted to contemporary life. Our family runs a business, and we all work from home. We developed our business not based on any approved structure or program, but we developed it based on how it is able to adapt to our everyday life and our interests. Resources (beyond the ACARA) are more progressive and more suited to the life we choose for our child. We are not about to compromise our child's interests, abilities and passions simply to fit in with the rest of the school-based children who have no choice but to let the teachers tick the boxes of the ACARA. We run a successful business, and each one of us in the family also pursue our personal passions through volunteer work, personal projects and contributing to governance by being part of advisory groups in a few government agencies. Through these, our child learns not just any information, but he also learns how to process information and become proactive in finding solutions and explore and use our personal creativity that is relevant to our lives. To be stuck with following ACARA, we would be suppressing our own passions and creativity that also stifles a future for our child that definitely does not rely on the content of ACARA. Coming from a family of mixed cultural and ethnic backgrounds, the ACARA lacks the relevant educational material that fits the needs of our family to become not only great citizens of the country, but to become worldly and have a greater understanding and appreciation of the wider world around us, including our own family's heritages, cultures and languages. 2. RE the requirement that the "educational program used for the child's home education must -- (i) be suitable for the child having regard to the child's age, ability, aptitude and development; xx" This provision does not include cultural and ethnic backgrounds, as well as socio-economic status. We believe that in our modern society, it is necessary to consider cultural and ethnic influences being lived and practised by the child's family in a child's education. To provide a high-quality of education means to be able to guide the child in the best ways possible given the immediate environment, accessibility to resources, and social and economic circumstances of the family and the community around the child. It is not to the best interests of the home-educated child to be required to conform with social standards that ignore the family's cultural, ethnic, financial or social background. Based on the above: 1. Our family oppose the requirement that the "educational program used for the child's home education must -- xx (ii) be consistent with an approved education and training program xx". We recommend that it be reworded to say: "(ii) be guided by an approved education and training program xx" 2. Our family recommend that cultural, ethnic and socio-economic background of the child's family be included in the provision: "educational program used for the child's home education must -- (i) be suitable for the child having regard to the child's age, ability, aptitude and development; xx"