

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1290
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Submitter Comments:

Subject: Protect Homeschooling Freedom for Individualized Education

Dear Committee members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes that would require homeschooling families to follow the Australian Curriculum. As a homeschooling parent, I have chosen this path precisely because the traditional curriculum did not meet the unique needs of my children. As a parent of children with ASD and ADHD, I have experienced firsthand the challenges that arise when trying to fit neurodiverse learners into a standardized curriculum. My children struggled to thrive within the confines of the full Australian curriculum. Their unique learning styles and needs were not adequately accommodated, resulting in disengagement from learning. The system's solution was to cut back their subjects to just the core essentials, depriving them of the opportunity to explore their interests in history, art, and language and more.

Your proposal fails to recognize the diverse learning styles and individual interests of children. It ignores the fact that homeschooling allows us to tailor our children's education to their specific needs and preferences, ensuring they receive a high-quality education that is both engaging and effective. It is crucial to recognize that all children, including neurodiverse students require tailored approaches to education in order to reach their full potential.

By imposing strict curriculum requirements, you are undermining the very essence of homeschooling, which is to provide a personalized and flexible learning experience.

We plan and report progress on each child as individuals, recognizing that a one standard approach does not fit all.

Moreover, your proposal overlooks the challenges faced by children in traditional school settings, where overcrowded classrooms and overwhelmed teachers often result in students falling through the cracks.

I urge you to reconsider your stance and instead focus on supporting and empowering homeschooling families to continue providing the highest quality education for their children. Our children's future should not be dictated by outdated and rigid educational standards.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my perspective on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Lynne