

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

**Submission No:** 1327  
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### Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Secretary I hope this email finds you well, and I thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns regarding some of the amendments outlined in the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. As a home educating parent for 11 years to my now five children, I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed compliance to the Australian Curriculum. It is both my experience and strong belief that our education system needs to be flexible, relevant and engaging. A system whereby the student develops a genuine and deep passion for learning, a system that inspires students to be self-motivated learners who are continuously seeking answers, a system that does not stifle or put constraints on what a student "should" be learning at a given age, a system that doesn't dampen the boundless potential of our children. One of the main determining factors of our decision to home educate our children was due to the overcrowded, irrelevant, inflexible and shallow Australian Curriculum, and wanting something so much more for our children. Being the parent of a child who struggled to pick up reading at the 'required level for his age' in year one, I knew that if we pushed him through public school, he would come to the conclusion that he was dumb as he wasn't reading the same as his peers. He would disengage easily from learning and then become the class joker and his education would downward spiral. Leading to an illiterate delinquent, refusing to go to school and adding more strain on the public system. Instead, our beautiful bright, energetic boy is now 16, working hard in a full time bricklaying apprenticeship and keen to do the study books to get his career going. If we forced him into a situation that did not suit him as a child, it would have damaged our influence on him and the encouragement we have given him to do his best and work hard in life. To not give up on learning even though it's harder for him to pick up reading than many (his brother). This child has also shown me how our decision to home educate has enriched his life and educational experience exponentially. The ability to tailor an educational program to suit his needs, his abilities, his unique strengths, learning style, and identifying areas of struggle and adjusting accordingly, is surely the gold-standard in delivering a high quality education. If I were to be made to tailor my education program within the overcrowded nature of the Australian Curriculum, I know that my children will become disengaged learners, dreading their days. The beauty of home education is the freedom and flexibility to provide my children with an exciting, relevant and exceptional education, tailored to just them. I am strongly opposed to home educating families being constrained by the requirement to follow the Australian Curriculum. In this present time in history, where world-class educational resources and curriculum from all corners of the globe are readily available and accessible, literally at the touch of a keyboard, it makes no logical sense to me to implement this restriction. I also have concerns for how is "be consistent with" the national curriculum going to be interpreted by the HEU? Can you please provide me with more information regarding this? Further to this concern, the requirement to report, with evidence, across each learning area, is excessive. Does the HEU even have the staffing levels to be able to thoroughly assess each individual report in a timely manner? This requirement just takes precious time away from families actually implementing their learning plan, from parents actively researching relevant resources, implementing them, just basically taking time away from educating our children. I do agree that reporting is important, however I strongly oppose the need to report across all KLA's. My children are thriving in the home education environment and are confident, well mannered, compassionate members of society. I invite you to explore more widely the myriad of ways a high-quality-education can look, and to champion educational innovation and reform that will empower students to thrive in a dynamic and modern world. Student-centred approaches, rather than top-down directives that do not hold the student's

best interests at heart, need to be at the forefront. I want more for my children; more than standardised testing, more than NAPLAN scores, more than a restrictive learning model that takes the one-fits-all approach. The education system, as it presently stands, is a flawed system; bullying is rampant, both cyber and violent, teachers are leaving the profession in droves, class numbers are high and support is low. My children deserve better than this. Every child deserves better than this. Education reforms are most definitely needed, but this just feels like bureaucratic impositions to deter individuals from taking the home education route. This serves as a perfect opportunity for you, and other stakeholders, to perhaps see another side to our education system. To look beyond the past, into the dynamic needs of the future, and to take a moment and think of the ramifications of your actions. By embracing flexibility, relevance and student-centred learning approaches, we can create a more inclusive and responsive education system, one that prepares ALL children for lifelong success and fulfilment. Removing the HEU certificate and replacing it with a notice diminishes the formal recognition and authenticity. Certificates carry weight and credibility, while a mere notice lacks the same level of legitimacy and may not be perceived as equally valuable or official. In addition with this bill there has been a lack of representative consultation. Qld has NO official state homeschooling association. The two people representing the people directly, Amanda Bartle and Patricia Fitzgerald, were actively excluded. Amanda and Patricia were well known to the EGPA review team and directors, and were actively excluded, as was mentioned in the briefing. I feel I was not represented in the second round of consultation because of this. And because no one asked me who I wanted as a consultation representative in light of there being NO official association. I did not receive any email contact asking for feedback on this bill as a homeschooler enrolled with HEU. Section 217(3) defines what an approved education and training program means but there is no provision for uni level studies in this section, TAFE yes under s217(3) but not uni. Why can't a homeschooled student complete uni level studies under this? A few other things to note is that QCAA (senior secondary) is not able to be taught in a home setting. - Only the NT identifies ACARA but mentions that ACARA may be gone and so another follow on group is named. - Montessori is not identified as a 'recognised alternative' on ACARA's special site. I hope that you will see that education cannot always be a one size fits all which is why many choose to homeschool and very successfully. I hope that you will see that we choose to home educate at a significant cost to our family - financially, emotionally, career-wise, and in just about every other way you can imagine. This is not a decision made lightly and we hope you will hear our concerns on this. Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.