

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

To Members of Parliament. I am 14 year old student, writing to you because I am worried about the changes you are thinking about making to homeschooling. Being homeschooled lets me learn in a way that makes sense to me, focusing on things I am curious about and enjoy, at my own pace. It's like having the freedom to pick my path in a big, exciting world of knowledge without being told exactly what road I have to take. One of the things I love most about being homeschooled is not having to stick to the Australian Curriculum all the time. This doesn't mean I don't learn important stuff; it means I get to explore subjects more deeply or in a different way than I would if I were in a regular school. For example, if I'm really interested in space, I can spend more time learning about the universe, or if I want to understand how video games are made, I can dive into coding and digital art. This kind of child-led learning is fun and makes me excited to learn more every day. I also get to have a say in what I learn. My parents and I work together to choose topics and projects, making sure I am learning everything I need but also allowing me to follow my passions. This has made me more responsible for my education and helped me become really good at researching and planning my learning activities. I am concerned that if we are limited to using just the Australian Curriculum, I won't have the same opportunities to explore my interests or learn at my own pace. I worry that this will make learning less enjoyable and less about discovery. I understand that it's important to make sure all children get a high-quality education, but I believe there are many ways to achieve this. The current way our parents make our plan has worked well for us and many other homeschooling families. I wonder if there is evidence that this system isn't working or that changing it would make things better? Some older homeschool students even start taking university courses through Open Universities, which seems like an amazing way to get a head start on college and explore subjects at an even deeper level. How would these changes affect children like me who might want to do something similar in the future? I am worried that forcing us to abide by the Australian Curriculum will affect how we homeschool guided by our curiosity and at our own pace, which has been incredible for my education and personal growth. I hope you will consider the impact these changes could have on me and many other children who have done so well to thrive outside of school. Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. I love learning, and I hope I can continue to do so in a way that suits me best.