

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1355
Submitted by: Brenda Courtice
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

To whom this may concern, I am writing with regard to the changes proposed in the home education bill which I am opposed to. I used to work as a teacher so I have seen first hand the demands, stress and high pressure of the national curriculum. I remember the excitement as prep students arrived on the first day of school, and then a few short weeks later, the overwhelm often began to kick in as the realities of the Australian curriculum took hold. I distinctly remember meeting with a parent whose child was feeling stressed and anxious because of school work. This is sadly all too common. As a Christian family, we have deep concerns with the agendas that have worked their way into the school curriculum such as the "safe schools" and other LGBTIQ material which is completely opposed to our moral values. I have no wish to expose my children to the warped ideologies that have begun to appear in the curriculum. We are a homeschooling family who has chosen to educate our children at home for a number of various reasons. I am very concerned that these proposed changes are going to negatively impact us which I am going to outline below. If I have to implement the national curriculum, I will be rushed through a crowded curriculum which leaves no time to explore and nurture my children's natural interests which I can currently do in a homeschool setting. As a teacher, I remember that awful feeling knowing I couldn't continue to work on a topic that a child was struggling with as long as I wanted to because there was too much content to get through. As a homeschooler, we currently have this privilege. If we are forced into implementing the national curriculum, we will no longer have the liberty to do this the way we want, allowing time to truly master a subject, topic or skill, which is a current failing of ACARA. How many other prep students can boast that they are learning how to cook, sew, grow a vegetable garden, experience cattle sales intertwined with their other core subjects? My six year old daughter can. As a homeschooling community, we have not been fairly represented as there is no official state homeschooling association in Queensland. Amanda Bartle and Patricia Fitzgerald, who are well known to EGPA review team and directors were actively excluded. In light of there being no official homeschooling association, there was no consultation with active homeschooling families like myself, and what we wanted in a consultation representative. Another huge concern I have is the move to abolish provisional home education registration. Time and time again, children leave schools because of bullying or mental health concerns. Provisional registration allows families some breathing space to pull their children out of the negative environment immediately. What will happen to vulnerable children when they are no longer legally allowed to immediately exit mainstream schooling? I implore the government to consider the vast and growing homeschooling community and how to fairly represent them instead of forcing a national curriculum on them with no consultation. Yours sincerely, Brenda Courtice