

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Dear Committee Members,

Firstly, I state I completely agree that a child deserves access to a high quality education. I believe I hit the jackpot being a privileged child to get a true private education for over half of my education journey. I have learned from home my entire life. I was officially homeschooled until grade 7. I then had to join a DE school due to a change of my family circumstances but it was still a flexible learning environment. I've only been following the Australian Curriculum for 4 years of my 12 years of formal education and even then not a full curriculum immersion. I have mixed my senior learning journey with vocational subjects to compliment my career path.

I love the flexibility of home education and that flexibility flows to what I learn, how I learn and when I learn. The Australian Curriculum, while well-intentioned, may not necessarily meet the diverse needs and aspirations of all students. In a landscape where alternative educational pathways are readily available, why should homeschooled children be confined to a single curriculum?

I am grateful my Mum embraces the richness of educational diversity and felt empowered in her own right to choose the educational approach that best aligns with her 6 children's interests, abilities, and aspirations. My Mum has been tailoring my learning for years to support my aspiration to join the RAAF.

It is essential to recognize that there is not one singular way to educate a child. Homeschooling empowers parents to teach their children how to learn, not just what to learn, laying the foundation for a lifetime of intellectual curiosity and personal fulfillment. Equally, my Mum is my protector and the person who guides my life - not the Government. The Government is there to SERVE the people. Australia is a democracy so the government should not get to choose whether a family can homeschool or not.

As I now finalise this last year of my formal education, I look to my future and am excited about the contributions I'll be making to society, enriching not just my own life but the lives of others in my community far and wide. I have a different perspective on life and learning than my regular school-attending peers. I am regularly singled out at my part-time job or in daily interactions when people hear I was home educated, as they acknowledge that must be the positive contribution to the difference they can see in my behaviour and attitude to learning and life.

Please hear us! As a child in a large family, I have grown up learning how to work together as a team - now it's your turn! Please embrace the homeschool community and let's work together to enact change that preserves the essence of homeschooling and provides a high quality education not dictated by the government but honours the amazing role our homeschooling parents fulfill.

Yours sincerely,

