

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1385
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Submitter Comments:

Dear EGPA Committee Members,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recently proposed changes to education legislation in our state. As a constituent and member of the homeschooling community, I believe it is necessary to make you aware of my objections to the potential impact of these changes on our education system.

The recently proposed legislation has raised several pressing concerns for me, particularly the requirement for home educating families to follow and report on the Australian Curriculum. As a registered teacher and home educating mum, I have had much experience using the Australian Curriculum and whole-heartedly agree that all children should have access to a high-quality education, however, I strongly believe that this requirement is not in the best interest of home educated children. Homeschooling allows children to learn in a manner that aligns with their individual interests, abilities and personal learning styles. This requirement, if introduced, would undermine the very reason why many families, my own included, have chosen homeschooling as the preferred method of education for our children.

By mandating the use of the Australian Curriculum in a home education environment, these changes would impede my child's autonomy and rob them of a personalised learning experience that fosters their intellectual curiosity and honours their individuality and creativity. My husband (who is also a teacher) and I have chosen to home educate, not out of necessity, but by choice, because we, as their parents, know that this is in the best interest of our children.

I am also very concerned about the lack of public consultation surrounding these changes. I believe when it comes to legislation changes such as this it is imperative for the voices of educators, parents, students and community members be heard and considered in any decision-making process that impacts our ability and our right to educate our children to the highest standard and with their best interest at heart.

As a home educating parent, I am deeply invested in my children's wellbeing and education. I ask the committee to reconsider these restrictive measures and to focus instead on supporting families in providing high-quality educational experiences tailored to the needs of each child.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Brigid Eastgate