

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1402
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Dear Committee Members,

My name is Jess and I am 20 years old. I write to you as a homeschool graduate and now a successful self-made business owner. I was fortunate to be homeschooled for more than half my formal education. I attribute my early success in my business to the fact that I was majority educated as a homeschooler. Homeschooling teaches you to think outside-the-box and gives you the confidence to be different. In my opinion, regular school kids reject difference. It's the opposite in homeschooling - we celebrate our differences, embrace them and learn from them.

I cannot in all good faith support these proposed changes in the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislations Amendment Bill 2024.

Being able to learn and follow my passions allowed me to gain my qualifications earlier than my 'day school' peers. This would not have been possible if I was forced to ONLY LEARN via the National Curriculum. Homeschooling is about opening doors, not closing them. Hence, I am 20 and already have a successful profitable business. I am literally living my dream! Better yet, my business is working with, encouraging and helping equip fellow homeschoolers in pursuit of the Arts. I get to use my life experience and talents and pass that encouragement and belief onto this next generation of homeschoolers.

Provisional/registration Section 229A(1), '17 years'—omit, insert—18 years.

The proposal to align school age for homeschoolers to be same as regular day school is long overdue and necessary. Having watched first hand some of my peers become disadvantaged from this age error was concerning and is clear discrimination of homeschooled children versus day school children. This is one of the few proposed changes that I do support. It is long overdue and needs to be amended to ensure fair treatment for all children be they attending homeschool or day school.

I also draw attention to the lack of consultation through this process. I do not know of anyone in the homeschooling community who was included in consultations, to the contrary, I am only aware of 2 homeschooling people who were excluded even though they are well know to the EGPA review team. In the absence of Qld not having an official state homeschooling association, you would presume it would be even more pertinent that the committee reach out to prominent people in the community. As a valued and contributing member in the homeschool community, I know people do not feel represented in this process. My Mum is but one.

In conclusion, I state, I do not support the majority of changes proposed to Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislations Amendment Bill 2024. I support freedom, choice and simplification of Government restrictions and requirements. I disagree with the proposal that a high-quality education can ONLY be achieved if every child follows a National Curriculum. Certainly, from my personal experience, my siblings and I are proof this is NOT true. The National Curriculum is oercrowded and will destroy passions, creativity and provides no room for personal growth and exploration.

Thanking you,
Jess Crompton