

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1405
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Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed legislation change to the Education and General Proviion Act that seeks to impose restrictive measures on homeschooling families. I speak from experience when I talk about homeschooling as I have grown up in a large homeschooling family. I have 5 brothers and sisters. My Mum was my teacher for more than half of my formal education. I also completed some of my studies through a DE school only due to a change in my family circumstances.

I am a homeschool graduate having finished my formal school years last year. This year I am continuing my education journey at TAFE and following my chosen career. I know the foundation I have from homeschooling is what sets me apart. Homeschooling and in particular, education without a curriculum emphasizes the development of skills such as problem-solving, research and self-directed learning that grows independent, self-motivated, curious and out-of-the-box thinkers. The government should be embracing those values and qualities instead of trying to squash them.

There is not just ONE WAY to receive an education. I know my learning path would be so different if my Mum was forced to ONLY teach by a set curriculum. The National Curriculum is so overloaded! Learning should be deep and explorative. The current curriculum that requires students to cover so many subjects means what you are really churning out are kids who know a little of a lot but a lot of nothing!

I feel my Mum et me up on a pathway to success for life when she decided to homeschool her 6 children. Education without a curriculum emphasizes the development of skills such as problem-solving, research, and self-directed learning.

Now to also address this proposed amendment - *A 'suitable' educational environment as determined by the Government (instead of parents)*. Since when is Government the decider for what is best for kids? My Mum is my guiding light and has always decided what's in my best interest and those decisions are now made jointly as I grow up and figure out what's best for me! We have a democracy in Australia, this means the Government serves the people. We are not a dictatorship. The Government has no place making rulings on who can or can't home educate.

I implore you to make further consultations within the homeschool community before making such drastic changes that serve mostly to disadvantage homeschoolers.

Yours sincerely,

AJ Crompton