

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1413
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Submitter Comments:

Dear Sir/Madam, My will is that all the content regarding homeschooling be removed from this bill. Homeschooling is doing well as shown by increasing uptake and provides an excellent alternative to schools which are declining in performance as shown by Australia's steady fall in global rankings for over 20 years. This homeschooling content in this bill is anti-competitive and appears to be driven by school lobbyists who see it as easier to attack their competition rather than improving their offering. The COVID school closures demonstrated that online learning is a very rich experience that is convenient to families, just like working from home. This has changed the competitive landscape forever for schooling, just like working from home has forever changed how we work. Hence the bill should instead focus on increasing the standards of education in schools as Queensland (and Australia) have been steadily slipping backwards in global rankings for over 20 years now. Countries like India are doing very well by using a similar curriculum and teaching approach to what Australia used 30 years ago. In addition to the issues with the curriculum schools are becoming increasingly unsafe due to declining discipline standards. Conversely, homeschooling provides the safest environment possible, as children are not exposed to dangerous and disruptive students and not supervised by people outside of their family. Nobody cares more about a child than their parents and family. The Government should instead be focussed on improving the education and safety standards of schools to remain competitive with the improving homeschooling offerings. This would be a win/win as children at schools would benefit from the market competition provided by homeschooling, as will those in homeschooling as it improves to further compete with schools. Regards, Gregory Jones