

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

Good morning, I would like to note my objection to the proposed changes to the homeschooling regulations. Homeschooling in its current form provides flexible learning for all children especially those with additional needs or interests. The proposed increased in regulation and reporting places such an increased level of stress onto the educating parent who has already taken responsibility for their child's learning. No one argues the importance of having a good education however it is important to recognise that this can be provided in a variety of ways. Just as adults learn in different ways, so do children. Homeschooling provides a personalised learning environment and a safe environment for learning where children can thrive and develop into young adults who are adulthood and workforce ready. The school environment is not healthy for some children with behavioral and or learning differences. The mental health impact of these children and young people who fall victim to bullying and social outcast can have devastating and lasting results including depression, anxiety and worse case suicide. The proposed increase in reporting requirements is going to be at the detriment of homeschooling children where their educator (generally parent) may reduce their contact time with their child to ensure the reporting requirements are met. This will not benefit the child or their learning in any way. Where is the evidence that shows the ACARA provides a higher level of education in comparison to those that receive a home schooled education? What support is going to be made available to the providers of home education if the expectation is that they provide and follow the same techniques as a traditional school where the teachers have completed 4 years of university training? This proposed change to follow the national curriculum will also place additional financial stress on families and household who are currently homeschool. Having to purchase packaged curriculum that may not be suited to a child's learning is an unnecessary expense when many educators have already sacrificed their own income to focus on providing a high level of education for their child/ren. By changing the focus to ticking the boxing of ACARA you are removing the focus from the child and their needs in regards to education. Yearly plans and reports are required under the current arrangement and demonstrate the provision of high quality learning. Being restricted to the national curriculum removes the ability to tailor and personalise learning and risk completely disengaging a child which will impact on their long term attitude towards learning. In life, there is no 'one size fits all' so why is this strategy being considered to apply to education?