

## Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 1454  
**Submitted by:** Mark Cutts  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

I am writing to you with my concerns regarding the proposed changes to the education bill. I do not agree with having my parental rights being over-ruled in deciding how to educate my children. I have made the decision to not send my child to school based on a multitude of reasons, coming down to what is best for my family. My child would not be able to meet the expectations placed on him in a school environment, needing frequent movement and feelings of autonomy with decision making. When he becomes dysregulated, he can be a distraction to others and even at home, can be a safety risk to himself or others. My child would be suspended, and as I am often away from home due to work, my wife would have to be the one to collect him, making her unreliable at work as she would have to leave her place of employment, being the local public hospital. We already have days when our child refuses to attend activities, most recently a birthday party at the beach. We chose to not add this stress of him refusing to attend school. How will the decision that homeschooling is in my child's best interest be made? How will you enforce my child to attend school when he wouldn't want to be there? Will you be held responsible if my child elopes and is injured in his attempts to flee? We live out of town, so our local school has an 80km/hr speed zone near it, who will be answerable if my child endangers himself in that traffic, causing a crash or being killed on the road? I have seen my wife search multiple books and sources of information, coming to me armed with homeschooling success stories when we were making the decision to not send our child to school. Children can still go to university and they do so before their schooled peers. I have since seen her encourage me in educating my child, following his interests, elaborating on something in passing that my child became interested in, or to let him try doing something. We often look at the map together, or the weather radar, or spend time together working in the shed repairing, doing maintenance or building something. He has helped with servicing my car, been present whilst we had heavy machinery operating on our property, seen life cycles first hand, and will be joining me when we build our chicken coop. He's excited to look after the chickens we plan to raise, just as he was excited to see a pumpkin growing in his vegetable garden. What constitutes a high-quality education looks different in our house to what happens in school, because we are not a school, we are a family. Those memories he will cherish would be more valuable than the ones he would gain from school, where I remember always being in trouble. We can provide a high-quality education without someone else deciding what he has to know, providing HEU with a yearly plan and report. His progress would not line up with similar aged children, because he is neurodivergent, and his physical skills far outweigh his academic skills. My child taught himself how to kayak while I paddled near him in our dam last year, at 5 years old. How amazing is that! I do not agree with him being made to follow a curriculum, and oppose this change to the legislation.