

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1462
Submitted by: Robert Reynolds
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: See attachment
Submitter Comments:

To the Committee,

I am writing to object to the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Bill 2024 in the current form. I have specific concerns with Clauses 18, 64 & 68 and I am in support of the Free2homeschool Movement.

I write to you with first hand experience because I was actually homeschooled in the 1960s in PNG. I spent 11 years learning at home in PNG then when my family situation changed suddenly I returned to Australia and entered my first ever year at a regular day school in year 12. What a culture shock that was! I'd never learned in a classroom situation, never done exams yet due to the confidence instilled in me during those magic homeschooling years and thanks to the love of learning that had been cultivated in me, I was able to successfully complete and succeed year 12. Immediately after school, I went on to become a communications technician studying externally. I hold such value for out-of-the-box learning and I now know my "out-of-the-box" years of education positively impacted my journeys for the rest of my life.

I consider myself a lucky one - I grew up when "National Curriculums" didn't exist. We didn't have overwhelming workloads and overstructured learning approaches. We got to learn the basics and dived into them in a deeper way than I witness learning done today. Today it's a surface level approach to learning. There seems to be no depth - it's all just about keeping kids busy.

Busywork = Death of Innovation = Lack of Imagination = Expired creativity = Disengagement for Learning.

My significant concern is that by imposing a mandated curriculum, it will impede this valuable alternative to a school-based education, therefore hindering and worsening outcomes for children, rather than improving outcomes as we are led to believe is the core of your intentions.

Respectfully,

Robert Reynolds