

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

**Submission No:** 1471  
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**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

Dear Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee Members, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes in homeschooling legislation, particularly the requirement to follow a specific curriculum. As someone deeply invested in the education of my children, I've made the conscious choice to homeschool, recognizing that the mainstream educational system may not always suit or, in some cases, can even harm children. Two of my three children attended school during the initial years of their educational journey. It was there that I realized the "one size fits all" approach does not work. This became evident especially with my younger child. She struggled with the demands and approach of teaching in the traditional school system. Despite being pushed from grade to grade, she faced challenges with reading, comprehension, and numeracy. The national curriculum failed to provide her with a quality education, leaving her feeling inadequate. However, after being homeschooled for over 11 years, she has blossomed into a confident, almost 19-year-old, who believes she can achieve anything she sets her mind to. From someone who once struggled with numbers, she now tutors senior high school students in physics, chemistry, and mathematics, holds several certificates from TAFE, and is pursuing a Bachelor of Physiotherapy. Her success is undeniable evidence of the quality education provided at home. Each of my three children has unique learning styles, interests, and needs, and homeschooling has allowed me to provide personalized, one-on-one teaching experiences tailored to each child's individual requirements and aspirations. I firmly believe that without firsthand experience, it's challenging to fully grasp the intricacies of homeschooling and understand what legislative measures are necessary to ensure homeschooled children receive a quality education. It's not just about enforcing rigid curriculum requirements but rather fostering an environment that empowers parents to provide personalized, holistic education tailored to their children's needs and aspirations. Let me share the educational journey of my third child, who has never attended a traditional school. Homeschooled using a mix of curricula and approaches, my 14-year-old has an impressive knowledge of history and science, often surprising even my husband, who holds a PhD in Molecular Biology. He is well-read, participates in formal debates and group learning, and holds a job. By the end of this school year, he will have completed a mathematics program preparing him for first-year engineering studies. My role is to facilitate and enable his love of learning, following his interests. I consider this to be quality education. My significant concern is that mandating a curriculum will force some children back into the school system, where they will continue to struggle, resulting in worsened outcomes for both children and society. Real and distinct options for children and families must be maintained, with substantial support provided to homeschooling families, informed by the homeschooling community. Modifying legislation to address child safety concerns by mandating a standardized curriculum raises significant issues. Such changes will not effectively address safety concerns and may push families of concern off the radar, exacerbating risks. Instead of focusing solely on homeschooling laws, broader reforms to child protection systems are needed. Any proposed changes should carefully balance educational autonomy with child welfare. Additionally, the cancellation of the 60-day temporary registration poses a concern. Many parents are forced into homeschooling due to issues such as bullying or mental health concerns. These parents need the 60 days to prepare an education plan tailored to their child's needs to ensure quality education. Rather than restricting provisions for education, resources should be allocated to investigating why so many children struggle with mental health in schools and opt for homeschooling. Furthermore, the homeschooling community has not been consulted about the proposed changes, which will significantly impact them. Queensland, possibly the only state without

an official state home schooling association, lacks representation in these discussions. Key representatives, such as Amanda Bartle and Patricia Fitzgerald, were excluded from the consultation process. The homeschooling community was not represented in the second round of consultations as a result. While the Australian curriculum may be presented as a superior option, it's essential to acknowledge that it's just one of many possibilities. Offering diverse schooling options and supporting parents in making informed decisions about their children's education is crucial. In conclusion, I urge the committee to approach homeschooling legislation with a deep appreciation for the lived experiences of homeschooling families. By listening to the voices of homeschooling parents and advocating for policies that promote flexibility, autonomy, and inclusivity, we can create a more equitable and responsive educational system for all. Sincerely, Aldona

