

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

**Submission No:** 1528  
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**Attachments:** See attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

I wish to state my opposition to the proposed changes to the education bill that is currently before parliament, especially to the changes to the homeschooling legislation and the impact this will have on children with disabilities and special learning needs. The changes to this legislation directly affect me and my child.

I am home educating my child due to necessity. The proposed changes to follow the national curriculum will greatly affect my ability to teach my child in a way she learns and give her a high quality education. She was at a state school for 3 years, during this time she wasn't able to learn anything. The curriculum isn't designed for children with any type of learning disorder. People, in general, do not learn new skills at the same rate, so why and how did we come up with the idea that a child should reach a certain milestone or perform a task by a set age. Everybody learns at a different rate and those who don't fit in the the standard being enforced by the Australian curriculum fall behind, this one size approach failed to teach my child and many other children leaving them to feel self doubt, disengaged or depressed.

After taking my daughter to specialist learning centres a diagnosis of dyslexia was given. This information was given to the school with a list of accomodations she would need to have implemented in the classroom for her learning. Unfortunately the school was unwilling to budge on these needs and stated that she had to follow the same curriculum as the other children at the same time stating the school was inclusive, this I believe was the very opposite of the word as sitting quietly in the class all day made her feel excluded, unable to understand the work.

We would drive to the specialist weekly (a 2 hour trip) for lessons, I was taught how to implement a proven method of teaching reading to someone with dyslexia and my daughter got a one-on-one lesson with the teacher there. We followed this program for reading and math after school each day. I could see progress, but it was exhausting and not fair on a child.

Her anxiety around school increased as she got older and after a talk with her paediatrician where he discussed the possible need for medication to control anxiety, my husband and I decided it was in her best interest to remove her from the school system and homeschool. I spend countless hours researching programs that have proven methods of teaching children with visual disorders, have spoken to numerous specialist and spend many hundreds of dollars purchasing the best programs I could for her. We are registered with homeschooling, my plans have always been approved and reports show she is receiving a high quality education. She is thriving, has a insatiable appetite for learning is happy and no longer doubts her ability to learn.

If the ACARA curriculum is imposed on homeschoolers it will add an extra workload which is unattainable in its current form. It is too rigid, not giving any scope for providing individual plans and inhibits different learning styles and those with any sort of disability.

I am concerned that this legislation has been introduced without proper consultation with homeschooling families, I believe it is important to know the reasoning behind families decisions to home educate, it is not a decision taken lightly, but often one due to not fitting in with mainstream education and the desire for a parent to give their child the very best opportunities possible. I respectfully urge the committee to reconsider the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation. Thank you.