

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1541
Submitted by: Christopher Durham
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: See attachment
Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee,

I am writing to voice my concerns over the proposed changes to the Education legislation aimed specifically at home educators. My concerns are, conforming of educational planning and reporting requiring the Australian curriculum to be followed and the requirement to use Queensland syllabus for seniors.

Educating our autistic daughter to the standards of the Australian curriculum will limit our ability to follow her interests and provide an unrestricted environment and opportunities for her to deep dive into those interests, leading to deeper understanding. This deep dive process allows us to tie in appropriate learning goals from multiple KLAs across multiple year levels.

By removing the ability to deep dive into topics of interest, it prevents the flexibility for my wife and I, as our daughter's educators, to cover any concept she has shown she is ready for or interested in, as we would be time limited due to the requirement to cover the 8 KLAs prescribed in the Australian curriculum.

Our daughter for some time has had a deep interest in all things, robots and more recently in Battlebots specifically as a competitor. This past 6 months she has been introduced and exposed to, through the preparation for her participation in a local tournament, early engineering concepts including 3d design, 3d printing, and electronics. This has led her to learning skills she would have not been exposed to and excited her into learning more basic concepts she was otherwise struggling with.

Along with the Australian curriculum being restrictive, the senior syllabus is written in such a way that it can only be formally assessed and tested at the end of senior education in a school setting, assessments and testings that we as home educators don't have access to. Not only do we as home educators not have access to QCAA, it is not required as the pathways to tertiary education are not restricted to just this pathway. Would it not be more beneficial for my daughter and other children like her to be spending their time specialising their knowledge in their areas of interest, potentially fast tracking or starting early access to their tertiary education?

Being forced to follow the Australian curriculum will remove our ability to ensure engagement in the educational process as we would have less ability to make it interesting and exciting for her. The purpose of educating our daughter at home should be about ensuring she is best equipped for the real world and has the best chance of becoming a contributing member of society. The ACARA will limit the content we can cover therefore reducing her inspiration and all but guarantee that her academic progress is inhibited. These limitations will be further compounded into her secondary education by reducing her access to tertiary education options.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns.

Sincerely,
Christopher Durham
BA *UniSQ* MInfoStud(Rec&ArchMgt) *CSU*