


Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by: 
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Dear Education, Employment and Training Committee members,

As a 13 year old home educated student I would like to voice my strong objection to many of the parts of the **Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024**.

Well, where do I start? Home school is amazing. It lets you be free and learn at your own pace and speed. With many children who come to home schooling, they do so because they cannot follow the curriculum in normal public or private schools. So if these changes go ahead kids are basically doing what they would be doing at school and that is not right - because they leave school so they can have the freedom of home schooling.

From my own personal experience, I've had ups and down with mental health and home schooling has let me do what I need to, to work at my own pace without pressure, which makes my mental health worse. A lot of home schoolers are on the spectrum or have autism so they like having the freedom of what curriculum they do. Many have not coped at school and the freedom home schooling provides them enables them to learn at their own pace.

Another issue I have with the home educating amendments of the bill is that my mum already has enough on her plate with work and teaching us and adding onto this would just make her so much more stressed. She does not need that. (and neither do we quite frankly!)

I'd like to point out that I've been home schooled all my life and I have never done the Australian curriculum and I've turned out fine. I've been a Youth Leader for the Kids in Action environmental conferences - which was amazing! I have participated in Reader's Cup competitions, entered schoolwork and artwork in local shows – winning many prizes, been a leader helper at our Churches Kids Club and Sunday School, performed in numerous drama plays in front of large audiences, made Club and Rep level soccer teams, traveling for tournaments and matches around the State. As you can see my education is well rounded and contrary to many people's thoughts about home schooling we are very much part of the community and learning great things along the way. I have recently been learning about the Cold War in history and couldn't help but see the parallels with the Long Telegram and this legislation. George F. Kennan, US ambassador to the Soviet Union wrote the famous Long Telegram in 1946, outlining Stalin's protectionist view forward for the USSR post World War 2. This telegram would go on to influence US foreign policy towards Russia for the next 30 years. **Words and policy matter!** I believe that the Long Telegram is similar to this proposed legislation – it will have potential negative ramifications that will continue for the next 30 years and beyond if it is introduced. (Incidentally if I was following the Australian Curriculum I wouldn't have covered the Cold War until Year 10. The beauty of home education without the restriction of following the Australian Curriculum means that I can cover subjects that interest me when I want to. I have found the Cold War and politics post World War 2 fascinating and have been excited to learn more and more about it.)

My last point is if this legislation goes ahead I don't think it will achieve what you are hoping - getting more people to register with the HEU. I think it will actually have the exact opposite effect. You are making the reporting harder and by saying that families will have to follow the Australian Curriculum it will not make people register. Most will look at that and

think it is too hard or not what they want for their family. It will not make people want to register with the HEU, in fact it will drive more people to be unregistered home educators.

So what I want to say to this proposed legislation is please leave us home schoolers alone. We don't need the Australian Curriculum to show that we can do great things! I am living proof of this. Don't add stress and more burden to families that are already doing the right thing by registering with the HEU. The new changes will just make it harder and drive more families underground.

Sincerely,



13 years