

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

**Submission No:** 1554  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Attachments:** See attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent education legislation changes that have been proposed in our state. As a constituent and a member of the community, I believe it is crucial to voice my apprehensions about the potential impact of these changes on our education system.

My name is [REDACTED] and I home school my nearly 6 year old son who has diagnosed developmental disabilities, learning disabilities, ADHD and potential Autism. I care full-time for my son and my husband who has a brain injury but prior to being a care giver I worked as a veterinary nurse and a community care worker. I myself was home schooled for a period of 6 months when I was 9 years old as my family travelled Australia before re-joining mainstream school for year 5 at the age of 10. I stayed with mainstream school until part way through year 10 when I dropped out due to my severe anxiety partly acquired through years of bullying before completing my year 10 certificate at an adult education facility where i thrived. My son [REDACTED] attended [REDACTED] for the ECDP last year and term 4 of 2022. It took a lot of work for me to leave him there due to his anxiety. Unfortunately he does not do well with change and I was informed he would not be disabled enough to continue with a special school but I also know he would be eaten alive in mainstream as he is not capable of sitting still and listening for very long so much so his teacher used to bring in a trampoline for him to jump on during story time. He also has terrible anxiety and as a responsible and loving parent refuse to add more traumatic events to his life. He would be incredibly distracting for other students. We home school using the Euka program which we adapt to suit his abilities but we may use another program in the future if it becomes unsuitable. [REDACTED] is very active within his social calendar attending numerous meet ups and doing scouts and my first gym programs. Additionally home schooling fits in well with the numerous specialists and medical appointments that must be attended to each week for both my son and husband. I have every intention of home schooling his younger brother when he reaches school age for this reason.

The proposed legislation raises several pressing concerns that I believe need to be addressed. Firstly, As a parent of a neurodivergent child, we have spent hundreds of hours consulting with numerous specialists and allied health experts to determine how to best educate our child. We have liaised tirelessly with his/her former school to try to implement these recommendations. Unfortunately, what my child required was just not able to be achieved by their school. My child learns best with a project-led learning style. This enables

him/her/them to become deeply immersed in an area of interest and this will often cross at least 5 key learning areas. Adhering to the Australian Curriculum would render this impossible for my child, and to this date, has been the only learning style that he has engaged in. Secondly researching and facilitating home education takes a lot of time and energy, but we have decided to follow this path with our child because they just don't respond to the Australian Curriculum. As a parent, it would be substantially easier to just enroll my child into distance education but we have already discovered that this method of learning would be detrimental to my child and our family. Drawing on our experience with traditional schooling and learning methods, we would be unable to successfully follow the Australian Curriculum.

Moreover, I am worried about the lack of transparency and public consultation surrounding these changes. As a stakeholder in our education system, I believe it is imperative for the voices of educators, parents, students, and community members to be heard and considered in any decision-making process that impacts our schools.

Additionally, According to recent research collected by the Home Education Unit (2022), two of three home educating families have chosen to do so because of an underlying disability or health issue. For these children working the Australian Curriculum is not providing them a high-quality education or meeting their immediate needs. They have chosen this avenue because of the flexibility it affords. This enables families to educate and care for their children in a manner that suits their learning style. Most of these students have left mainstream schooling because they could not learn in a traditional learning style. I also feel that there is so much research stating that children learn best through play until the age of 8 as the synapsis in the brain are formed in 10 to 20 repetitions vs 400 repetitions (<https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/119/1/182/70699/The-Importance-of-Play-in-Promoting-Healthy-Child?autologincheck=redirected>).

In light of these concerns, I urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed education legislation and to prioritize the best interests of our students, teachers, and schools. I implore you to advocate for a more inclusive and collaborative approach to policymaking that values input from all stakeholders and ensures the integrity and quality of our education system.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for considering my concerns. I look forward to your response and to further dialogue on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.