

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1564
Submitted by: Jo Hendry SEE EXTRA ATTACHMENT
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

As a homeschooling parent of 19years I do not agree with the proposed bill due to having 5 neurodiverse children; which would place my children under unnecessary restrictions on them and a huge increase in workload for me. The Australian Curriculum/ Acara isn't flexible for homeschooling and individual education plans as they by design are for school settings NOT home learning especially children who have disengaged and not suited to this model of education. I have already been showing that I provide a "high quality education " via submitting my HEU reports and plans; every 10 months. Homeschooling parents who are registered with the HEU do this to show OUR commitment to our children's education- why do we need to do more ? This takes us away from our children's learning- causing a strain on parents but we are passionate advocates for our children - why was I not notified of these proposed changes from HEU ? Because they are already working beyond their capacity! So who will these changes benefit ? Certainly not me or the many other parents who diligently facilitate their children's learning. Please listen to the Homeschooling Parents who do this and also find time to support others negotiate the rigours of initial registration and annual reporting. Many of us come from diverse backgrounds and occupations (I retired from nursing in a private hospital 10years ago after 23 years of service to facilitate my family's educational needs) I have another 8 years till all my children complete their compulsory phase of learning- I am here for the long haul and have more than proved that I can facilitate "high quality learning " that is in the best interests of my children. Thank you for this opportunity to offer my experience as a long term home learning parent of neurodiverse children that have their needs supported and are achieving their personalised goals and outcomes .

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Subject: Ensuring Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities: A Call for Action
Date: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 5:08:33 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As a homeschooling parent of 2 children with several disabilities, I am deeply disappointed by the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation. For many children with disabilities and neurodivergences, homeschooling is not just a choice but a necessity—an opportunity to create an environment where they can thrive at their own pace and in their own unique way.

It is disheartening to see a focus on making homeschooling more rigid rather than addressing the systemic barriers that prevent many children with disabilities from accessing quality education in mainstream schools. Children with disabilities often face significant challenges in traditional school settings, where rigid structures and standardised approaches may not accommodate their diverse needs. Homeschooling provides a lifeline for these children, offering the flexibility and personalised education that provides what they require to learn and grow in a safe and nurturing environment.

Rather than limiting the options available to families, we should be working to ensure that all children have access to a range of educational opportunities that meet their individual needs and preferences. This includes advocating for and providing alternative options like homeschooling for those who require a more tailored approach.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to reconsider its approach to homeschooling legislation and to prioritise the needs of children with disabilities and neurodivergences.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,

Jo Hendry

Homeschooling Parent of 2 Children with Disabilities