

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1603
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To Ms Farmer

I am writing to express my concerns and strong opposition over the amendments to the Education (General Provisions) and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. As a home educating family for over 7 years, I believe this will be detrimental to my family.

The proposed legislation raises several pressing concerns that I believe need to be addressed.

1. The introduction that home educating families must follow the Australian Curriculum. This would make it so that we would not be able to give our children the highest quality education in a home school setting.

Educating 3 children all with different needs and ages makes this impractical and have found the children don't take in the information when trying to learn from textbooks and the like. We love to delve into subjects and immerse the children into family excursions, multimedia, creating family projects together and have family discussions. Working 1:1 out of workbooks won't allow us to do that.

Having transitioned my children from mainstream schooling, where they struggled and failed to thrive, to a home schooling environment, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of personalized, interest-driven learning. Unlike the rigid structures of traditional education, home schooling has allowed my children to explore subjects that genuinely captivate their interests, enabling them to engage with learning in a meaningful way.

For children like mine, who face various learning challenges, flexibility is not just a preference but a necessity. It is through this flexibility that we can adapt our teaching methods to accommodate their individual learning styles and provide the support they need to succeed. By tailoring our approach to their interests, we not only keep them engaged but also instil in them a lifelong love for learning.

As a mother to neurodivergent children, I have successfully home educated my children for coming up to 8 years. Never once receiving negative feedback from The Home Education Unit, I do not need the Australian Curriculum to continue to do this.

2. There was a lack of any consultation with Home Educating parents with the Bill Amendment, many of us including myself did not receive any information from this proposed change, I was only able to find this information through social media and I don't believe this is good enough for a government sector wanting to make changes to my children's education.

3. I am also extremely opposed to the amendment that there will be someone in a governing sector deciding whether my children are able to be home educated, who gets to decide this?
It is taking away my right to educate as a parent who wants the very best for my children, if I was not able to home educate my eldest son after he was abused in mainstream settings, I do not like to think how our lives would be.

In closing I feel I am giving my children the very best education that is personalised to them and they are happy, healthy, and smart children who love to learn and explore all that we can offer them.

Thank you for reading my submission.

Sincerely,

Kristy Garbutt