

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

**Submission No:** 1684  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Attachments:** See attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

Dear Committee,

I am writing in response to the proposed legislative changes to home education currently before the committee for review. I do not support some of these changes, such as following the national curriculum, showing progress across all subjects every year, and having to prove that home education is in the best interest of my child. These changes will have a negative effect on my family and other home educating families.

I am an accidental home educator. I have six children, the eldest two attend our local Special School, I have a child in Prep who attends a State school, a child in a local Lutheran Kindergarten program (who at this stage is enrolled to attend prep next year) and a two year who is about to be enrolled in ECDP. I currently home educate my year 4 child. He has been to 3 different schools, Catholic for prep, a Montessori program at a local State School, and a Lutheran Private School.

### **National Curriculum.**

He has been home educated since November of year 2 when I provisionally registered him with the Home Education Unit after he began school refusal (again), self-harming and begging to stay home where it wasn't so noisy and busy. I followed up with his approved plan within the 60 days required. My child is Autistic, dyslexic, and gifted. He was not able to function within the school environment. He learns best when the content is interesting to him, and when he gets a say in what he is learning. This would not be possible if he was made to follow the national curriculum. He would again disengage from his learning and the meltdowns in relation to his education would return. We currently balance his education with content that he needs to know with subjects and content that he loves, keeping him engaged with his education and progressing in all areas.

### **Showing progress.**

Because of the way he learns it would not always be possible to show progress across all 8 areas of the national curriculum. When learning becomes tricky, it is sometimes necessary to stop a subject area and come back to it later, which we can currently do due to being able to follow his interests. I also don't understand how we could be held to a higher standard than schools when it comes to showing progress. My 2<sup>nd</sup> eldest attends a special school; that follows the national curriculum, he has not progressed in English for the past few years due to his disabilities, and I have no problems with this.

But how would this be presented or accepted from a home educator under the new legislation??

**Child's best interest.**

Under the proposed legislation home education would only be accepted if in the child's best interest. Who gets to decide what's in my child's best interest?? What are acceptable reasons to home educate?? Will it be expected of parents that they must continue to send their children to school when they have anxiety, are being bullied to the point of suicidal thoughts, are not able to function within a school environment due to their disabilities? What about those families who choose to home educate because they want to home educate? Will they not be able to because some outside person decides its not in the children's best interest?

I would ask the committee to revisit the proposed legislation before them and consider what is already working for many home educating families.

Thank you for your time.

