

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

**Submission No:** 1696  
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**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. Dear EGPA Committee Members, I have been a registered nurse for over 16 years and am the aunt to homeschooled nieces and nephew. The proposed legislation raises several pressing concerns that I believe need to be addressed. Since reading the proposed legislation, the highlighted legislative initiatives proposed in the bill threaten to encroach upon the fundamental rights of parents, particularly parents who elect to educate their children from home. Should the bill become law, the suggested amendments would mean that families would lose their fundamental and legal right to choose how to educate and support their children. I have already seen the positive outcomes from my nephew attending organised homeschool events and meetups and have seen his confidence and inquisitiveness about learning new skills develop. He has already been provided a better opportunity to develop positive and healthy social skills with peers and other community members of all ages and is often involved in community-based learning opportunities at places like farms, museums, and natural environmental centers among others. This can only be a positive benefit to him and other homeschoolers. There are so many stories in the media focusing on the troubles of youth in schools from bullying to violence and social outcasting. Why would we take away the choice for parents to try to protect their children from potential harm and mental distress? I'm concerned that the legislation has been introduced without proper consultation with current homeschooling families and I hope that you will take my feedback into consideration. In light of these concerns, I urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed education legislation and to prioritise the best interests of these students. For education to be inclusive of all students, I believe it is important to understand the reasoning behind the education decisions of the families who struggle the most to fit into mainstream education or just choose a different path for their children. Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. I would urge you to consider the concerns and also see the positivity that homeschooling brings to kids. I would also demand that homeschooling parents are provided the opportunity to fight their corner rather than being sidelined throughout the entire process. Adequate consultation in any potential policy changes should include feedback and direction from those on the ground who are working so hard to ensure the best possible start to their children's lives. Best Regards, Samantha O'Brien