

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

When I am helping my children to be educated and ready to thrive in the world I provide them with many experiences and help them gain all the skills necessary at the time that is best for them. When a child is in school with many other children and being passed from one teacher to another it is natural that the way they must gain skills is very different. I feel that as a parent every time I am required to adhere strictly to the Australian curriculum or to spend time reporting on what we are doing it severely detracts from the work of enabling my children to develop. There have been many complaints about the rigidity of reporting and the curriculum from teachers and I feel it is unnecessary to be adding this load to homeschool families. There was a review in 2022 regarding homeschool reporting and many homeschool families responded and I feel these results should be taken into account. With the booming increase in online learning, to restrict children to the Australian curriculum would reduce the scope for them to use some of the amazing resources available to them worldwide. It is often a very difficult time for children and parents when moving from school to homeschool and I think it is very important to allow a long provisional registration period to enable the transition to be smooth. It should not be required to submit a plan straight away. When a child begins homeschooling the best plans will evolve as the child and parent explore all the resources and opportunities available for them to learn. With regards to approving the application for home education, currently the plan must show that people are providing a good educational environment for their child. The clause including "in the child's best interests" should be removed. The difficulty for the department of assessing this is too complex and unnecessary. There is already a department for child safety and this does not need to come under the realm of education as well. Any parent who is taking on the role of education with their child already has their child's best interest as paramount. Thank you for considering the above points and I hope you will view home educating families as creative and innovation benefits to the children of Australian. There are many ways to help our youth develop and be healthy vibrant contributors to our communities and live their best lives. May we all be flexible and support all the different models of education available.