

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

**Submission No:** 1704  
**Submitted by:** Mickyla Moore  
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**Attachments:** See attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

Dear Education, Employment and Training Committee

I am writing in response to the proposed amendments of the Education Act. I strongly oppose the following amendments:

I am a parent of six children. My two eldest children attended public school all the way to year 12. (They were subject to Family Law Court Orders) One has completed university and the other has deferred university for 12 months but has received an offer and will start university in 2025. My younger four are home educated. Children three, four and five did attend school for a short time. Child six has never been to school.

My concerns and reasons about the amendments, are as follows:

Having been involved in a lengthy family court battle from 2006 to 2017 and being held by the family law act section 60CC. My understanding of “best interest of the child” is that the child/children have a meaningful relationship with both their parents. It was amended to include provided the child is not subjected to abuse, neglect, or family violence. I strongly object to these words being used in the Education Act. I was dragged through the legal system for a very long time because of those five words. Although I understand them being implemented in something like the family Law courts, as the parents do not agree on parenting arrangements, I do not agree with them being used in the education Act. To enrol in Home Education both parents must agree on the children being home educated, unless one parent has been through family court and obtained sole parental responsibility. I personally look at these five words being used to control parents and intrude on their basic parental rights.

Parents that choose to home educate have not taken on the responsibility lightly. My third child is autistic. He has speech delays and learning difficulties. We decided to change his school at the end of year one, due to the amount of bullying he was subjected to. We had watched our very happy bubbly boy change to a very sad, anxious child and he was having melt downs daily. We found a smaller school about 30 minutes’ drive from our home. At first this school seemed perfect. He was not being bullied but was still not the happy bubbly boy he was before he started school. The school put him on a learning plan at the beginning of year 3, he would learn at a year 1 level. Fast forward to halfway through year 4. I attended yet another meeting that I sort about his education. My son was well behaved and considered an amazing student. He was still on a year 1 learning plan and according to the school he was not grasping the curriculum. I also inquired about his reading as he was still struggling and was reading at a prep level. I was informed my son would never be able to read. This is when I discovered that the school’s idea of teaching my son was to provide him with a tablet, that could understand his speech and would read the words for him. In my opinion this is not teaching, this is putting a child in a too hard basket. My husband and I discussed what we could do for our boy. We decided to home educate him after a lot of research. Within 6 months of him being home educated our son was able to read fluently and enjoys reading. In these 6 months we noticed a change in our daughter that was in year one. She had started crying all the time, that required myself to go to the school and pick her up on a regular basis. This is a child that was extremely happy before she started school. Our other son that was in year 3, apparently was failing everything. This did not make sense to us at all. He is an extremely inquisitive child, that had many questions just about everything. He was struggling with his reading and seemed to struggle with writing too. I have since found out he is dyslexic. (the school failed to pick up on this) We decided to home educate them as well, they are all back to their happy selves. Our sixth child is also Autistic and ADHD, with speech delays and learning difficulties. As we had

watched our other children lose their happy bubbly personalities and that little spark in their eyes, we decided he would be home educated and not attend school at all.

We loosely follow the Australian curriculum. Our education is more interest based than anything else. If a child is interested in what they are learning, they will learn and retain the information they are being taught. I can teach English, maths, history, geography, science, art, information technology, health and physical education based on this method of teaching. If we would be made to follow the Australian curriculum, I think my children would not enjoy learning as they currently do, and we would not have time for all the social activities they currently enjoy. The plans I prepare for my children are carefully prepared for each child. Following the Australian Curriculum would make our style of learning not possible. They would be bored and not engaged in the lessons I teach. Or as my 12-year-old put it he would be dumb again. I was rather shocked to hear him say this about himself. He has not referred to himself as dumb for nearly 3 years. He stopped saying this about himself after he had been enjoying home education for six months.

Home Educators are required to submit a yearly report, we must submit six samples on three subjects. English, Maths and one other subject. My reports are in-depth and very descriptive of how and what my children have learnt throughout the year. It does take some time to prepare these reports. If I am required to report on all subjects, it would take me even longer. Taking away from valuable learning time for my children. Or would the educating parent be permitted to not do such an in-depth report? And possibly submit the copy and paste type report, just like the schooling system.

In conclusion, I do not agree with the above mentioned proposed changes. I love home educating my children. I have an extremely supportive husband and I believe having the opportunity to home educate has brought our family even closer. Our children are happy and learning in a way that suits them.

I am happy to discuss my concerns and reasons in relation to this matter.

Kind regards,

Mickyla Moore