

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Committee Secretary
Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Committee Members,

I respectfully request that you refrain from interfering with homeschooled children and their education, particularly requiring homeschoolers to adhere to and report on the Australian Curriculum and eliminating parental rights to choose the education best suited to their personal beliefs and values.

Although the Australian Curriculum serves as a guide for homeschooling families, mandating its strict adherence would hinder homeschooling parents' ability to provide personalised and effective education for their children.

Homeschool families demonstrate dedication and make sacrifices in the pursuit of education to suit the particular needs of each of their children. Instead of imposing restrictions, I urge you to respect the homeschooling community's contributions to education. Furthermore, many skilled teachers are choosing to join the homeschooling community every day. This trend underscores the value and effectiveness of homeschooling as a viable educational alternative

The opportunity to witness our grandchildren and their friends benefit enormously from the individualised education, social interactions across the age-span and occasions for community engagement as volunteers has completely changed my outlook on home education. Previously I was sceptical and concerned about children missing the benefits of attending school. My doubts were put to rest as I witnessed the creative and personalised approach to the interests, learning needs, styles and special needs of each one. This approach has not only provided them with a high-quality education but has also fostered important life skills, empathy, and social interactions. Our grandchildren who have joined the workforce have thrived and been pursued by business owners for positions of responsibility beyond their age and work experience.

It is critically important for Government to respect the autonomy of families in determining the educational path that best suits their children as you endeavour to ensure quality educational standards.

Having connected with many homeschooling families during the 15 years of our grandchildren's education, I have found homeschooling parents to be deeply passionate and invested in their children's well-being and education. The homeschooling community I have witnessed is vibrant, supportive, and dedicated to providing the best possible educational experiences for children.

I urge you to reject this proposal and instead focus on supporting and empowering parents to continue providing high-quality education to their children in a manner that best suits their unique circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

Ashley Schneider