


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

**Submission No:** 1714  
**Submitted by:**   
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Attachments:** See attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

Dear Committee Members,

I hope this correspondence finds you well. I am writing to express concern regarding the proposed changes to home education legislation.

I have always been passionate about education. I personally excelled academically in primary and high school, having since completed both undergraduate (in psychology) and postgraduate (in human rights) degrees. I therefore never planned to homeschool my child.

My child (pronouns: they/them) attended primary school at a public primary school up until mid Year 3. They performed well academically, receiving mostly As and Bs in every subject. In parent-teacher interviews, teachers always commented on how intelligent, kind and creative my child was, and that they could see them being a school leader someday. In Year 3, my child came out as trans non-binary and started to experience difficulties at school. Their mental health declined, and they began to experience panic attacks, anxiety and suicidal thoughts. We have since learned my child is also Autistic and has ADHD - and we were recently advised to book an IQ test as the Clinical Psychologist suspects they are likely gifted in this regard.

Since coming out as non-binary, my child did not feel included in the school or in the teachings. They started to demonstrate school refusal - lying on the floor, sobbing and asking not to make them go. They begged me to homeschool them. After much research, and personal sacrifice in terms of career and financial security, I agreed to home educate them. Since transitioning to home education, my child has thrived. They no longer experience panic attacks or suicidal thoughts - despite having also since gone through the separation of their parents. They are motivated and excited to learn again. It has been wonderful to see them excelling at (home)school again.

Like you, I believe that all children have the right to access a quality education. My child was not receiving this in the mainstream education system or in the implementation of the Australian Curriculum. I believe it is imperative that a thorough examination is undertaken exploring the underlying issues and reasons for the significant increase in families choosing to homeschool. It concerns me that instead of opting to do this, the government appears to be choosing to duplicate and replicate a system that harmed my child into the home education setting.

Before making changes to home education, I urge the committee to prioritise investigating the root causes behind the homeschooling trend. This will enable the committee to understand and truly address any discrepancies in children's access to a quality education. This requires engagement with home education stakeholders, including homeschooling parents. Their insights will be valuable in shaping policies that support the diverse needs of children, whilst ensuring the wellbeing and educational requirements of children are met.

In conclusion, I respectfully urge the committee to reconsider the proposed changes to home education legislation and to instead commit to investigating the root causes of the increase in homeschooling through a collaborative dialogue with homeschooling stakeholders to identify and address the real issues. As a passionate advocate for education, my wish is for all children to receive access to a quality and inclusive education. By collaborating with home education stakeholders, I believe you can make significant and informed progress in creating a more inclusive, quality and responsive educational system for all families, regardless of the education setting.

Thank you for reading my story and considering my words.

Sincerely,

