

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1832
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Publication:
Attachments: No attachment
Submitter Comments:

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Submission regarding EGPA changes
Date: Sunday, 24 March 2024 7:46:57 PM

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you today to express concerns regarding the intention to align homeschooling learning plans to the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) in Queensland. As a homeschooling parent and qualified teacher, I do not believe this would be in the best interest of most homeschooled children in our state. I am also concerned as to why the government thinks we would need to prove to them that homeschooling is in our child's best interest or that they may need to monitor the wellbeing of our children when schools are clearly not in the best interest of many children already.

Having homeschooled my four children for 10 years now, I can see homeschooling provides families with the flexibility to tailor education to the unique needs and interests of each child. By allowing families to design their own learning plans, without the need to align to the Australian curriculum (or any specified curriculum), homeschooling fosters creativity, critical thinking, and a love for learning that may be stifled within the confines of a standardised curriculum. Having taught the Australian Curriculum in the confines of the classroom, I can easily attest that it creates a lot of pressure on students and leaves no time to explore beyond the curriculum. It's not hard to see that we are going to create individuals who are passionate and have an in-depth learning experience tailored to their interests and strengths to be our future leaders if we continue to homeschool without the constraint to align to a particular curriculum. For example my elder two children are well on their way to great futures with one pursuing woodworking and the other pre-requisites to engineering (having never gone to school).

Homeschooling has a proven track record of success, both in terms of academics and mental well-being. Countless homeschoolers have gone on to achieve remarkable accomplishments in various fields, showcasing the effectiveness of personalised education. My husband was homeschooled his entire life and is now a CNC machinist supervisor, a highly technical role. His cousins were also homeschooled and now have great careers, chef, Occupational therapist, and town planner to name a few. And many recent leavers of our homeschool community are now onto university or tafe studies, starting out their careers. It is clear to me that the Australian curriculum is not the only way to be educated and should not be forced upon homeschooling families.

Has the government considered that the overcrowded curriculum and parents fears of

their own child's safety and well-being as common reasons for leaving school? Being an admin to a large local homeschool group means that I often talk with new families and hear first-hand how the school system has failed them. Often it is that they cannot cater to the child or are unable to adequately support the mental health and well-being issues that arise such as bullying or peer pressure. By imposing ACARA alignment on homeschoolers, we run the risk of replicating the same issues that drive families away from conventional schooling. Instead, spend more time and money where the community is unhappy (the school system).

Instead of mandating alignment with ACARA, I urge the government to support homeschooling families in their efforts to provide quality education tailored to their children's needs. By fostering an environment of flexibility, innovation, and parental involvement, we can continue to empower homeschoolers to thrive academically and personally. I personally chose to leave my career as a teacher to homeschool my own children because I knew I could tailor to their needs, not only educationally, but socially and emotionally, better than any school would be able to.

In conclusion, I respectfully request that the government reconsider the proposal to align homeschooling learning plans with ACARA or to make us prove that homeschooling is in our child's best interest. Let us embrace the diversity and autonomy that homeschooling offers, recognising its potential to nurture self-motivated learners and produce successful individuals who excel in all areas of life.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter. I am hopeful that together we can create an educational experience that prioritises the well-being and success of all learners. Please do not include my personal details that are included after this letter. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rachael Carter

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