

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Proposed changes to Homeschool Legislation
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To Whom it May Concern

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the recent education legislation changes that have been proposed in our state. I am one of many homeschooling families in our community and I believe it is vital to voice my uneasiness about the potential impact of these changes on our education system.

My son is 9 and has ASD and ADHD, he is quite intelligent, however teachers in school were telling me he was falling behind. Before he started school, my son grew up being so inquisitive and passionate about learning. He learnt to read and write before school, and had an excellent understanding of math beyond his years. The classroom environment did not allow him to thrive and by grade 2 had become completely disengaged, he told me he hated learning, maths was boring and was having emotional episodes at home due to overstimulation. We decided to homeschool after term 1 2023, I had to put on hold my half completed degree in teaching and quit my job running a playgroup. Since then he has regained that passion for learning, saying to me last year, "I love geometry mum, this is fun", he is performing above grade level in Maths and Science. As it turned out the school was wrong, we received his grade 3 NAPLAN results last year, he scored in the top ranking for all areas except writing, which was mainly due to fine motor difficulties. The curriculum was understimulating and teachers thought he was behind, but according to NAPLAN he is advanced. I would also like to report that fine motor skills have also improved tremendously since we have started homeschooling.

The issues we have with the new legislation include the lack of flexibility for students like my son, there are elements of the Australian Curriculum that just do not work for children like him. It is limiting for children that have ASD, who are passionate about certain subjects. This year for my son this year it is learning about Pi, Fibonacci Sequence, Periodic Table, the Human Body and Space. These are the subjects he has chosen, as well as learning to Python Code. We provide a balanced education of literacy, math, science, technology and social sciences, and already report to HEU that he has a high quality of education. We show samples and provide evidence of quality education. The new legislation would remove our ability to allow our son flexibility in following his passions. My son is just one story and I know that in home education there are many stories that are similar.

Another area of concern is the withdrawal of support for homeschoolers, it is proposed that there will no longer be a certificate for homeschool registration. This is vital for accessing services, excursions, and further education opportunities. The removal of this certificate may remove the desire for some families to register their children in the first place. The certificate is a helpful official document that encourages families to register and report appropriately.

There is concern in the homeschooling community that there has been extremely limited consulting with homeschooling families, I believe it is imperative for the voices of educators, parents, students, and community members to be heard and considered in any decision-making process that impacts the education of our children.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed education legislation and to prioritize the best interests of our students, teachers, and schools. I implore you to advocate for a more inclusive and collaborative approach to policymaking that values input from all stakeholders and ensures the integrity and quality of our education system. As a representative of the homeschooling community, I do not support the proposed changes to legislation at this stage, and sincerely hope further consultation can be achieved to ensure a high quality and inclusive future for all our students.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for considering my concerns. I look forward to your response and to further dialogue on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Nicole