

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1858
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Publication:
Attachments: No attachment
Submitter Comments:

To the Committee,

I am writing to show my support for the homeschooling community and to object to the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Bill 2024 in the current form. I have specific concerns with the implications of Clauses 18, 64 & 68 and I am in support of the Free2homeschool Movement.

I believe that homeschooling, along with distance education, have their place in the educational options and should be afforded the same respect as any other option available. It is beneficial to a lot of children and their families. During Covid the government expected everyone to homeschool their children and it suited a lot of families to actually keep doing it. Homeschooling benefits are that kids are more engaged and focused on learning and with schools being as overcrowded as they are, this actually helps children who need more one-on-one learning or a quieter learning space.

Parents/carers have the opportunity to engage more and know their children's strengths and interests to guide their learning into career and further study opportunities, whilst creating and maintaining a family bond; and these parents take this opportunity seriously in minimising their own career opportunities to support their children's growth and learning. It also provides flexibility as a lot of parents work or are shift workers, so it actually works well around their work and still allowing for plenty of family learning opportunities guided by life and interests rather than to a dictated curriculum. A lot of the state school education taught is not suited to all children and lacks depth and interest-based learning. Even though my own children attended a state high school, I fully support the homeschooling community and for their children to be taught at home their way, without having the Australian Curriculum enforced on them.

This will have a direct impact on many I know and I feel restricting them in their freedom of choice when it comes to education and their choice to decide what is best for their children is an overreach of government.

Kind regards,

Belinda Yorston