

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

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In our family we run on the understanding that learning happens everywhere, at any time of the day or night and not only within a school term. Learning is a normal and natural part of our everyday life, no matter where in the world we find ourselves. Being out and about is part of our normal everyday life and it presents opportunities for learning that our children otherwise would not have if they were at school.

Literature is the foundation of our learning and reading is a constant activity in our home. Reading happens spontaneously everywhere and audio books are always played when we do normal everyday tasks such as chores and driving in the car.

In the past two years we've done horse riding, motorbike riding, clay modelling, board games, fishing, rock pool exploring, colouring in, drawing, crafts, baking, cooking, adopted grandparents, made paper, gone camping and made campfires, built a billy cart, built a cardboard pirate ship, played pool volleyball, did caravan renovations, had movie nights inside and outside, rescued turtles, found and identified snakes, helped friends with building, learnt how to give haircuts, experimented with hair cuts, styles and colours, attended countless playground catch ups, listened to hundred of audio books, read hundred of books, discovered many new book series, had golf lessons, played golf and won a golf prize, contributed entries into the HS monthly collaborative books, swam alot, explored and adventured in the local creeks, rivers, beaches, park and bushland, held and went to birthday parties, saved up for things we really wanted, played pickleball, went to the rollerskating rink, fixed our dog's wounds, experimented with makeup and face paint, did watercolour classes and lots of water colour paintings, told thousands of jokes, did a dreamtime culture experience, taught Dad to how to roller blade, make scrunchies and slime, did many different types of water sports such as sailed a catamaran and feva boats, rode windsurfers and did stand up paddle boarding, kayaked and drove blow karts along the beach. House sat friend's homes and farms, visited three different heritage villages, did a road trip back to NSW to visit friends, took our photo in front of many big things, made tie dyed and bleach dyed shirts, made shirts for friends birthdays using heat press vinyl, had family from Canberra and Melbourne visit, made yummy sushi, got COVID and beat it in three days, had BBQs and dinner at friends place and hosted some at ours, fortnightly counselling sessions, watched and played soccer, made handmade gifts for friends, made and solved many jigsaw puzzles, helped friends repair their camper van, did gardening with Nan, hung out in the shed with Pop helping him fix ad build things, prepared a farm for flooding, still are amazed by how big cane toads get, built and decorated a Ukulele and started teaching ourselves how to play it, went to a ninja warrior style adventure park, created and sold things at the HS markets, danced and jumped on the trampoline in the rain, played in muddy puddles and rode our bikes through them, learned how to use a Cricut maker and heat press, learned how to knit and crochet and joined a knitting club, practised curlew calls, went to the local show, did cooking classes, did circus skill lessons, watched live comedy and magic shows, watched advanced horse training lessons, cuddled cute baby animals at petting zoos, did drawing lessons on procreate, made and experimented with paper planes, spent countless hours creating things with Lego, experimented with calligraphy and black paper art, played social table tennis, watched Edward the Emu live show, attended dance and drama classes, learnt about dirt bikes and mountain bikes, joined teenscapes social group, started a Dungeons and dragon fortnightly mission, did chainsawing, pruning and tree lopping, trained and played with our dog Autumn, practiced regular first aid on Dad, looked after and fed chooks for others, saved and potted many tomato plants found in precarious spots, used mod podge to add glitter to boots, drink bottles etc, made the dog an outfit, built hundreds of cubbys and tree houses, weekly trips to two different libraries, found new hot pink clothing at op shops, weekly home school coop, made a cloak from scratch, bought a tent and went camping, made swings in trees, trained chooks, made thank you cards, attended a funeral, night time skating and rollerskating/blading, helped on a farm, regularly lost skin off limbs, went to a comic convention and designed and entered a costume to enter, watched piglets be born, helped out at farm open days, broke a foot, used a wheelchair for two weeks, wore a boot for six weeks, had several xrays and ultrasounds, did physio sessions, fed baby goats, picked tomatoes growing wild, watched a foal be born. House sat for friends, pruned 50m of hedges, made custom stickers as gifts, turned 20 litres of cream into butter, built a cubby house from scrap wood, watched Frozen in Te Reo Maori, did special effect face painting, tried on high heels, made bead jewellery, learnt how to use a 3d printer and printed countless projects, designed and then made creations out of Lego, pulled apart and fixed an electric mower, pulled apart and fixed a petrol

generator, read horrible histories books, clipped and groomed a dog, bought new mountain bikes and rode many mountain bike trails, caught Covid again and spent 2 weeks recovering from it, did night time beach walks, upgraded our laptops, tried new icecream flavours, played board games, worked on our family tree and discovered over 100+ Maori tribes, bushrangers and royalty in the family, brought new brightly coloured glasses, dyed our hair many colours and experimented with new styles, participated in a HS ball games day, made masks out of paper bags, had an MRI, made custom shirts for a HS bush camp, went on several HS camps, explored national parks and swam under waterfalls, toasted marshmallows and told ghost stories by the campfire, lost and found our dog, dressed up and went to a Harry Potter themed birthday party, participated and contributed to the local HS co-op, farmsat for friends and looked after their cats, dogs, chooks, ducks, geese, birds, cows, pigs, goats and sheep. Swam in the local creek, collected wild tomatoes, discovered new insects we haven't seen before, took a piglet on a car ride, watched amazing sunsets, got stung by hairy grubs, did a come and try sailing day with a friend, played chess, accidentally swam near a crocodile, had a pink birthday party, watched some scary storms, saw some beautiful rainbows, made passionfruit jam with wild passionfruit, grazed arms and knees after a bike accident, bought a baitcast net with birthday money and spent hours learning how to use it, caught and released many toad fish, made banana bread from scratch, taught a friend how to ride a bike, went fishing in countless places and caught fish of many shapes and sizes, went to a bee themed party and made a bee themed gift to match, made a giant trifle for a birthday cake, made matching bleach dyed Easter shirts with friends, bought and practiced using a whittling knife, watched movies inside and outside with family and friends, did dungeon and dragon campaigns, had a night glow party, went to several heritage villages, saw wild dingoes, attended an ANZAC day dawn ceremony, cuddled freshly hatched chickens, did diamond dot art, met Milly Formby and learnt about migratory birds and microlights, took silly selfies, helped at a petting zoo, participated in Qld Academy of Sport's talent identification program, built a mountain bike out of tipshop parts, used our GoPro to film bike stunts, practiced gymnastics skills, went to several agricultural shows, watched a dinosaur show, got taught tricks by a clown, watched a motocross show, attended a horse training seminar, hungout in a hammock, painted many finger and toe nails, removed and installed vinyl flooring, attended social board game days, made custom outfits for and attended the Matariki festival, attended a gender reveal, watched classic Australian movies, made waffles and icecream from scratch, watched every Matilda's game live, did many webinars including: Aboriginals are the first Astronomers, volcanoes from distant ancestors to diamonds, decolonising fire: indigenous fires, miscropy and Aboriginal art, marine science, Questacon Foldable Flight, Live behind the scenes your of the Sydney Opera house, Butterfly Science, Plant Science, story writing with the national library, stand up paddle boarding, fed an ostentatious of peacocks, read hundreds of eBooks on kindles, borrowed just as many from the library, saw in the wild an adult and baby echidna, got selected for phase 2 of Qld Academy of Sport's talent identification program, visited the RM Williams Australian Bush Learning centre and watched their night Lazer show and learnt how to plait leather, drove from Rockhampton to Brisbane to attend a freestyle BMX trial with the Queensland Academy of Sport in Brisbane, visited friends in Brisbane, rode the 160km Brisbane Valley Rail Trail from Yarraman to Ipswich in 6 days, swam at Atkinson Dam and Lake Clarendon, visited the Cob and Co coach display, attended a Viking day at Abbey Museum and did archery, made runes, did an archeological dig and weaving, celebrated becoming a teenager with camping and pizza and ginger beer, visited a Centaur Monument to remember our lost family members, went to Pizza Hut all you can eat, made and tested sailing boats out of Lego and plastic bottles, turned kayaks into sailing boats by holding up tarps, bought a 5kg cabbage for \$3 and turned it into many different food items and meals, visited the Texas Rabbit Works Museum, learnt how rabbit fur is turned into Akubra hats, fosicked for gems in dry riverbeds, made clay sculptures, watched our cousin's play hockey in freezing weather, went to a baby shower, made new baby survival kits for a cousin, turned 10kgs of gifted cherry tomatoes into relish and tomato paste, searched for crabs at the river edge, built a giant campfire, made lasagnas for Christmas, used a diving board, visited family in Canberra, visited a solar and wind farm, collected and cashed in over \$800 worth of bottles and cans, had Santa visit by horse and cart.

We have an amazing life learning as a family. Above is only some of what we've done in the past few years. As you can see from this list, our children are having a very blessed childhood with a very high quality education WITHOUT using the Australian Curriculum. To make us use the Australian Curriculum would not only take away many of the above learning experiences for our children but it would take away their joy of learning. Having to force them to learn irrelevant and meaningless information just to tick a box as part of the Australian Curriculum is ridiculous and definitely not in their best interests.

The Australian Curriculum is an outdated document that does not suit the needs of our children or most modern day children. Our children are learning to look after themselves and be problem solvers not regurgitators. Technological advances means the future needs more innovators and free thinkers

than ever before.

Our children are loving, caring, empathetic, confident, intelligent and unique individuals. They possess amazing social skills as a result of years mixing with all walks of life in their community. No matter what the age, gender, ethnicity or religion of other people they always fit in.

We have made a significant sacrifice to homeschool our children and we do so because we think nothing is more important than their happiness and their right to have learning be enjoyable. We are now a single income family and our retirement is also going to be affected too. BUT we're happy to do so because that's how important our children's futures are to us. Please don't force the Australian Curriculum on us.