

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Hi, I'm a 23yr old mum with a 4.5mth old baby. Through my school years, I was at a Christian private school for Prep-Grade 5 and then I was homeschooled through a distance education school for the remainder of my schooling. So I have had experience in both systems. While I enjoyed my time in private school, being homeschooled allowed me to do things that I would not have been able to do otherwise, I was able to complete a school-based traineeship and Cert II at Greencross Vets in Grade 10 and then through Grade 11 & 12 I completed a Cert III in Dog Behaviour & Training which allowed me to get a job (that I still hold) straight out of school. If I had been in day-school I would not have been able to do any of that as the school workload would have been too much to add to. I have lots of friends who went to day-school and one thing that stood out to me was the workload that they had to do, they either didn't have time for extracurricular activities or they were incredibly stressed trying to fit everything in. Apart from the lesser workload, I really appreciated that I was able to go outside and hang out with our pets, climb a tree, check on the ducklings or any number of things during breaks, it was fantastic for my mental health through the senior years of highschool, and I enjoyed school rather than dreading it (as I'm sure I would have if I continued to be enrolled in a day-school). We have a 4.5mth old daughter, and having recognised the benefits of homeschooling, we plan to homeschool her through the HEU (and any other kids we have down the track). I really appreciated the flexibility that homeschooling allowed and I know that we can work at her pace to learn things (whether slower or faster than the curriculum would allow for). One of the reasons that we would choose homeschooling over day-school (public or private) is because there are some things in the Australian curriculum that we don't believe are appropriate for school aged children and are not necessary for her to learn, and we would appreciate not being forced to follow a curriculum that goes against our values as a conservative Christian family.