

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Submission in Relation to Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024
Date: Monday, 25 March 2024 8:16:33 AM

Dear Committee Secretary,

I hope this email finds you well, and I thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns regarding some of the amendments outlined in the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes in homeschooling legislation, particularly the requirement to follow a specific curriculum.

As a homeschooling parent of 5 years, I firmly believe that these changes would undermine the very reasons why many families, including mine, have chosen homeschooling as the preferred mode of education for our children. The essence of homeschooling lies in the freedom it affords children to learn in a manner that aligns with their individual interests, abilities, and learning styles. One of the primary motivations for homeschooling is to provide our children with a personalised learning experience that fosters their intellectual curiosity and allows them to learn at their own pace. We are, after all, like snowflakes, every one individual.

It is both my experience and strong belief that our education system needs to be flexible, relevant and engaging. A system whereby the student develops a genuine and deep passion for learning, a system that inspires students to be self-motivated learners who are continuously seeking answers, a system that does not stifle or put constraints on what a student "should" be learning at a given age, a system that doesn't dampen the boundless potential of our children.

Furthermore, enforcing a standardised curriculum fails to recognize the diverse interests and talents of homeschooling students. It overlooks the fact that every child is unique and may thrive in different subject areas or learning environments, in particular the neurodivergent child who struggles in a standard school system and gets left behind. By imposing a mandated curriculum, these proposed changes would impede my children's autonomy and hinder their ability to pursue education in a way that best suits their needs, and risk depriving our children of the opportunity to pursue their passions and develop their full potential.

I am strongly opposed to home educating families being constrained by the requirement to follow the Australian Curriculum. In this present time in history, where world-class educational resources and curriculum from all corners of the globe are readily available and accessible, literally at the touch of a keyboard, it makes no logical sense to me to implement this restriction.

I also have concerns for how is "be consistent with" the national curriculum

going to be interpreted by the HEU? Can you please provide me with more information regarding this? Further to this concern, the requirement to report, with evidence, across each learning area, is excessive. Does the HEU even have the staffing levels to be able to thoroughly assess each individual report in a timely manner? This requirement just takes precious time away from families actually implementing their learning plan, from parents actively researching relevant resources, implementing them, just basically taking time away from educating our children.

My children are thriving in the home education environment, they are well mannered, compassionate members of society. I invite you to explore more widely the myriad of ways a high-quality-education can look, and to champion educational innovation and reform that will empower students to thrive in a dynamic and modern world.

In essence, these proposed changes would not only undermine the fundamental principles of homeschooling but also limit my children's ability to learn and grow in a way that honors their individuality and creativity. As a homeschooling parent deeply invested in my children's education, I urge the committee to reconsider these restrictive measures and instead focus on supporting families in providing a rich and diverse educational experience tailored to the needs of each child.

I want more for my children; more than standardised testing, more than NAPLAN scores, more than a restrictive learning model that takes the one-fits-all approach. The education system, as it presently stands, is a flawed system; bullying is rampant, both cyber and violent, teachers are leaving the profession in droves, class numbers are high and support is low. Neurodivergent children like mine are getting lost in the standard school system which is in turn failing their education. My children deserve better than this. Every child deserves better than this.

Education reforms are most definitely needed, but this just feels like bureaucratic impositions to deter individuals from taking the home education route. This serves as a perfect opportunity for you, and other stakeholders, to perhaps see another side to our education system.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,



Homeschooling Parent

