Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From:

To: Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee

Subject: Submission regarding Education Bill 2024

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Dear committee,

I am writing to you as a deeply concerned parent. Having just been made aware of the proposed changes to the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, I would like to express my opposition.

Parents do not take on home schooling lightly. We spend a lot of time, money and energy ensuring that are children's educational, social and emotional needs are fully met. We review multiple curriculums and resources every year to ensure that we get the right mix for each child, some of these may align to the Australian Curriculum, but certainly not most. It is proven that the Australian Curriculum is not the best available and therefore as home schoolers we have the freedom and ability to provide something far superior for our children. So why is the Government looking to hinder this process?

With regards to needing to prove that home schooling is in the best interest of our children, I would like to ask who is to judge this? Nobody knows my children better than my wife and I. Who says that sending them to a school situation with another 150+ students per year grade is better than them having the opportunity to learn 1 or 2-1? Where much of their education also takes place outside the home, learning in the wider community with people of all different ages and backgrounds? Is the history lesson given by an elderly gentlemen at the aged care facility we visited last week less important than reading about history in a textbook at school? (I will note here that my children also learn history through many other resources). Is visiting Uluru and learning from multiple Aboriginal sources less important than a video about it in the classroom? My children are receiving a worldly education based on the people we meet and the places we go, whilst also working at a higher grade level for Maths and English (as per their workbook and online resources information).

I also ask how the consultation process of this Bill worked? Because as a stakeholder I was not made aware of the proposed Bill in writing. I was not consulted at any stage, and I know that the key spokespeople (Amanda Bartle and Patricia Fitzgerald) of Queensland Homeschooling Community were actively excluded. I hope that the committee listens to us homeschooling parents now.

So I urge you, please reconsider the need for this Bill. It is not what home schoolers need and will not achieve anything positive for our young people and generations to come.

Kind regards,

Michael Green