

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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EDUCATION BILL SUBMISSION

25 March 2024

Committee Secretary

Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee

Parliament House

Dear Committee,

I am writing to express my concern about about changes proposed in the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, especially as concerns **home education**. As a **parent currently homeschooling** I do not support some of the changes proposed.

The decision to define a high quality education as the National Curriculum removes from parents the **option of using other curriculums, such as the Montessori or Steiner curriculum** which are used by many families, **particularly in regional areas of QLD** where school providing these curriculums are not available.

Homeschooling parents usually **adapt their curriculum to the child's interests to maximise engagement and self-directed learning**, and being forced to use the national curriculum will limit this significantly.

It also means that children at different ages **miss out on the opportunity to work together**, as each child in a family will be learning according to the national curriculum. For example, in a family with 3 children, each child will be learning a different era of Australian history rather than all 3 **working together on the same topic, with learning adapted to their age and needs**. This removes the opportunities for group projects, group discussions, and learning from and with other students.

The new legislative requirement that homeschooling must be in the best interests of the child does not state how this will be determined. **Parents are generally the best placed to know what is in their child's best interest**, and I am concerned that with this legislation, **only children that truly cannot cope with education through the school system, due to ill health or mental health concerns, will be eligible to homeschool**. There are many other reasons parents choose to homeschool their children. In my experience, having a child both in a private school and then homeschooled, homeschooling is the educational model that has given my child a much higher level of engagement with learning, a greater love of learning, better emotional health, and more time together as a family. **I would like to see the freedom of parents to make the choice that is best for their children protected in legislation.**

Sincerely yours,

Amanda Lambert

