

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 2011
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Publication:
Attachments: No attachment
Submitter Comments:

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Comments on proposed changes to the Education Bill 2024
Date: Monday, 25 March 2024 11:09:08 AM

Date: 25/03/2024

Dear Committee,

I object to the proposals in the Education Bill 2024. Particularly the below key points;

- Defining high-quality education as the National School curriculum
- The guiding principles holding homeschoolers to a higher standard than schools
- The increased reporting expectation to demonstrate the educational progress of the child or children

The Australian curriculum has a one size fits all approach and does not cater to the individual needs of every child. By allowing families to use a range of curriculum and resources the government would be better supporting the various needs of students and overall assisting in the child's educational outcomes.

The proposed changes in the Education Bill 2024 suggests that the national school curriculum is the 'only appropriate' way in which to educate our own children. My husband and I reached a high standard of personal education beyond the school system. Through our journeys in education we have come to understand that not all children are the same and everyone learns differently. My husband and I have different learning styles from that of the mainstream Australian curriculum and that provided us with challenges to overcome. Through our experience we can see that there are multiple ways of learning and providing equally if not more successful outcomes.

We have embarked on our homeschool journey in the last year, however our interest in this way of educating our own children was ignited when we spent a year travelling and living in our caravan and exploring Australia. My husband works for 3 weeks on a 3 weeks off and we have cultivated our life in such a way to be able to take full advantage of this flexibility and be able to travel. To teach our children through life experience, practical elements as well as elements of the standardised curriculum.

We believe in incorporating a significant portion of their education as travel and through life experience. We have two very energetic boys and through our own experience as parents in the last 5+ years we have witnessed first hand how sitting behind a desk for 5 days a week for 8 hours a day would not be in the best interest of their well being or education. Homeschooling and drawing on multiple resources to cultivate our own personalised curriculum gives us the opportunity to incorporate these elements. As well as listening to what our children are interested in and focusing on their needs, resulting in a love for learning.

You only have to look at the statistical data showing a steep increase in ADHD and ADD in many young Australian children to see that elements of the current system

aren't working. Our children haven't been diagnosed with these conditions but as I mentioned previously, through our experience as parents of boys we can see how a controlled and overly structured environment can be a negative for some children.

The increased expectation of reporting on the Australian Curriculum, which is above and beyond what teachers in schools are expected to report, would take away valuable time from our journey in homeschooling our children. The benefit of this significant increase has not been outlined in the bill and fails to value the certain level of autonomy that should rightly remain with us as parents. We remain the custodians of our children and can make decisions in the best interests of our children in their upbringing.

We hope that you make a decision that is inline with the families & children's experience, giving the opportunity for families to cultivate the right approach for their family. Drawing on elements of life, experience & components of the Australian curriculum that suit the needs of our individual children. Not a one size fits all approach.

David Gale

