

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 2048
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Publication:
Attachments: No attachment
Submitter Comments:

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Homeschool changes
Date: Monday, 25 March 2024 11:52:49 AM

To whom it may concern,

My husband and I have recently read through the proposed changes to education in the new Education Amendment Bill.

Some background: We are both university educated. I have stopped working in paid employment and taken up home duties as the mother of small children and we are early in our homeschool journey. My husband works full time in a challenging field and has worked shift work until recently. We have moved cities for his work and training four times in the last 6 years. In this context, homeschooling has allowed my husband to be involved in our older children's lives and education in a way that could not have been possible had they been attending kindergarten and school. Homeschooling has allowed our children to have a secure base for education in the midst of the regular and inevitable moving. We have found a thriving homeschool community where we live currently and our children are involved in extra curricular activities like sport and music.

The new Bill describes how home educators should provide education 'consistent with an approved education and training program'. Does this mean there will be a set curriculum sent out e.g. Grade 1, Grade 2? Within that will there be provision made for children who need remediation in some areas but are advanced in others? As a home educator I am able to do this already as I work to help our children achieve mastery, working at their pace instead of moving through content 'with the rest of the class'. Would I have to change the maths curriculum and our phonics curriculum even though it works well for our children and the homeschool setting? Please keep in mind that home education is **not** a 'classroom environment' but more of a 'tutor' or 'multi age small group' setting and so curriculum and structures that serve a large group of same-age children are not necessarily advantageous to learning for us.

Will there be general recommendations for content sent out or will there be very specific requirements? For example, my husband takes a keen interest and enjoyment in leading teaching in some areas of (our own) curriculum which would not be included in Australian Curriculum for such young children. If we were limited to a set curriculum I am assuming we would have less time for reading Shakespeare, learning about human physiology or reading aloud about World History with our young children? From the language used in the Bill, there appears to be some potential for strict curriculum requirements which don't serve our educational goals.

I would like to make a special mention about a cohort of families that choose to home educate who are in a lower income bracket to ours. The level of education these families' children would receive at their local public school is kilometres behind what their highly motivated, diligent parents provide. These families are highly unlikely to be able to afford private schooling, or to move to neighborhoods where a better public education is available for their children. More paperwork and more regulation is another burden for these extremely busy families, whose parents are often working multiple jobs while the other educates the children. Are these proposed changes actually serving those whom you want them to serve, or are they going to make things harder for people who have already willingly used their own limited resources in order to provide the best education for their own children?

Warmly,
Grace Kasparek [REDACTED]