

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Submission Change of legislation Home school hearing
Date: Monday, 25 March 2024 11:13:45 AM

Dear State member of parliament and committee members,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent education legislation changes that have been proposed in our state. As a constituent and a member of the community, I believe it is crucial to voice my apprehensions about the potential impact of these changes on our education system.

My Name is Astrid Arnon, residing at [REDACTED] and I am a mother of two boys aged 2 and 4 years old. My husband works FIFO offshore one month at a time; With no family support locally and not being eligible for childcare subsidies due to my husband's higher income tax bracket, we made the decision early on for me to stay at home with the kids.

In addition, our boys are bilingual – dual citizens of France and Australia, which means there is a possibility for our family to travel overseas and/or relocate during school periods. Our boys currently attend a home school tutoring group with a qualified teacher 2 days per week which provides us with the flexibility to incorporate a tailored learning program aligned with both the French and Australian curriculum.

The proposed legislation raises several pressing concerns that I believe need to be addressed. Firstly, my understanding is that home school programs would need to be aligned with the state curriculum only. Why not give parents and tutors the flexibility to choose from the Steiner and Montessori curriculum which are both accredited and recognised programs amongst the Australian education department?

Moreover, it seems the proposed legislation aims at restricting and imposing a 'one size fits all' approach' for a learning environment that is the opposite of what state schools are subjected to. As a parent, I don't believe it serves the best interest of my children who require a tailored approach to learning. There is currently no data comparing grades between homeschool and state school students.

From a funding perspective, both public and private schools benefit from state/federal annual funding to support their work. Home school families are 100% out of pocket for purchasing educational material and/or activities. Given the current shortage in educators across the country, the government could use the opportunity to support families who already home school or intend to enrol into a home school program as it ultimately eases classroom capacities across schools and deflates government spending. If the proposed legislation aims at regulating home schools with strict guidelines then families should also benefit government subsidies to provide education programs.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed education legislation and to prioritize the best interests of our students, teachers, and schools. I implore you to advocate for a more inclusive and collaborative approach to policymaking that values input from all stakeholders and ensures the integrity and quality of our education system.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for considering my concerns. I look forward to your response and to further dialogue on this important issue.

Sincerely,

