

## Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 2084  
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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Australian Curriculum is not THE only option for education of our home schooled children  
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Re: Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

I am writing as a parent of three children whom my husband and I have opted to home educate in Queensland. My children are currently excelling at life. They are well rounded, respectful, independent thinkers who are eager to learn and grow and make the most of every opportunity. We are frequently congratulated on how enjoyable interactions are with our children and how different they are compared to day school students.

I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering, a Graduate Diploma in Road Safety and a Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning (majoring in Secondary Engineering Technology and Maths). I have worked as an Engineer in both the private and public sector for over 20 years, lectured at the University of Southern Queensland in Engineering, tutored secondary mathematics and homeschooled for just over 10 years. I run a successful homeschooling group that allows for weekly educational and social opportunities for my children.

My husband holds a Bachelor of Theology and a Diploma in Ministry. He has worked in various industries throughout his life. Of particular note is his involvement in working with young people both within various local Queensland State Schools as a Youth Support Coordinator and as a Residential Care Worker providing in home care for vulnerable youth. His experience of the Queensland State School system solidified our desire to school our children from home. He can provide details of numerous situations where the well being of students and high quality education is not achieved in the State School system. He can also provide details of where children fall through the cracks in the education system within the day school environment.

Our goal with home education is to provide adequate quality education intertwined with excellent life skill preparation to allow our children to grow into independent adults who are eager to learn and grow and contribute to society. As such we have researched and compiled an educational plan for each of our children that is tailored specifically to them. It allows for developing both their strengths and weaknesses, providing personal growth opportunities, ensuring excellent Maths and English opportunities and focussing on their talents and natural interests. We have seen our children grow and thrive and develop into resilient, thoughtful and socially responsible children who have high hopes and goals for their future. We have managed this all without the requirement to follow the Australian Curriculum.

As such we do not understand why the Australian Curriculum should be required by all homeschooling families to follow as proposed in the legislation change. This change will not improve the high quality education the majority of homeschooling parents are providing their children. It will rather disbenefit the children, their homeschooling environment and the educational outcomes achieved.

A further concern is the motivation for the change to the home education bill as

being the death of a single child who happened to be home educated. The death of this child has nothing to do with home education or the processes and regulations required. It is a failure of the parents of the particular child. Penalising all home educators for the act of one or possibly two parents is ridiculous. The majority of parents who homeschool choose to do so because they love their children and want to provide the best education for them.

We are already required to register, provide a very detailed plan for the education of each of our children and send a detailed report on the progress of our child throughout the year. If any of this is not approved by the Home Education Unit, they require further information. How much more do you honestly require from parents who are doing ALL the education at home, at their own cost, often forgoing an extra wage? Meanwhile, parents who 'send their kids to school' despite their lack of interest in their child's education are not penalised, because the child attended school. This is inequality at it's best.

I truly hope the committee seriously considers removing the requirement for the Australian Curriculum to be enforced in the homeschooling environment, for the sake of our children.

Yours Sincerely,

Lauren Yarrow