

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by: Louise Irving
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Louise Irving



To the Committee Secretary,
Education, Employment, Training and Skills
Committee,

I am writing in regard to the
Education (General Provisions) and other
Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.

I refer specifically to section 217
regarding the intended amendment
that a home education plan needs
to be consistent with an "approved
education and training program".

There are reasons why some children
do better in home education, and the
methods of home education having
the freedom to be modelled differently
to typical education and training
programs is one of them.

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For some children ^{a standard} ~~this~~ methodology does not provide the best opportunity for their learning. This may be due to preferred learning styles, the culture of their family, and the richness of other opportunities which their family life and community provide to give them educational opportunities which may not fit with what an "approved program" looks like. I think the tightening of the criteria for home education may be detrimental to the education of many children if a narrow view of what an educational program looks like is followed. I would strongly propose this amendment is dropped.

Likewise the increased regulation of the home education sector may cause a drop in those families registering their children, creating a backlash effect instead of the intended improvement. This would mean less regulation of an increasing 'under the radar' population of

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home educators.

From my experience as a home educating parent of several years I have witnessed diligence, care and love in the manner in which home educating parents facilitate diverse and appropriate opportunities for their children. Parents are tuned to what their child needs and adjust their method accordingly. I cannot see how a tightening of the regulation would enhance the educational quality of the approach families take but I can see how it may limit them and potentially provide more stress when they are doing a brilliant job in most cases.

While the curriculum provides a good framework and reference I believe home education should not be forced to adhere to it at the expense of rich and diverse learning opportunities which home educators may have access to such as

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travel, farm life, raising of animals, gardening, immersion in sports, or other hobbies in which children learn a great deal of skills interactively and experientially. These powerful learning experiences while covering many areas of the curriculum may not look like an "approved program" of study and it would be a shame if this amendment dulled or stuppered children's and parents ability to wholeheartedly dive into opportunities of great benefit to them.

Therefore,

I hope you can make some adjustments to your bill.

Kind regards,

Louise Irving

Home educating parent

