

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 2109
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Dear Committee Members,

RE: The EDUCATION (GENERAL PROVISION) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, particularly the proposed requirement for home educators to follow the Australian Curriculum. I do not support these proposed changes.

I am a retired TAFE teacher and grandparent of two home educated children. During my years as a TAFE teacher, I had several students in my classes (approximately 30%) who were unable to read, write or spell properly or do basic mathematical sums even though they had just spent the last 12-13 years in the school system. These students struggled and needed extra tutoring support just to complete their coursework. They seemed to be burnt out from their years of schooling, had low motivation and seemed to have lost their curiosity and love of learning.

I was absolutely shocked by this when I first started teaching at TAFE but my colleagues told me that it was very common phenomenon and sure enough, year after year, I had students in my classes, newly graduated from high school who were unable to read, write, spell and do basic math which is just appalling. After witnessing this over several years, it is my belief that there is something seriously wrong with our school system if we are turning out young people like this. I also believe that school, with its one-size-fits all curriculum, is NOT the answer for all students and should not be held up as the pinnacle of a high quality education.

The reason why home education is so successful is because it is an education that is completely tailored to the individual child or young person and takes into consideration the individual's strengths, weaknesses, interests, talents, wants and needs. The child or young person has a say in their education with their interests being the main focus. This helps make learning enjoyable and meaningful to them and helps them to stay motivated and deeply engaged in their education.

My grandchildren are absolutely thriving in their home education and they learn new things everyday by having the time and freedom to choose what they would like to learn about. They deep dive into the subjects that truly capture their interest and they see learning as a fun and joyful experience. It is not an unpleasant chore for them. They have not lost their curiosity, creativity and love of learning. This is what true education really is. Please do not take this away from my grandchildren and other home educated children by forcing them to follow the Australian Curriculum.

I believe that passing this proposed legislation would be detrimental for the future of home education, causing students to become unmotivated, disengaged learners who will lose their love of learning just like so many of my former students. It would also eliminate the only alternative option available for children and young people who do not fit into the school system and learn better through a hands-on, interest-based approach to education.

Sincerely,

Concerned Grandparent of Home Educated Children and Retired TAFE Teacher