



#FREE2HOMESCHOOL

for an education that goes beyond

Submission Info Booklet

This is not a time to be complacent and assume that reason and education will cut through. Are we busy homeschoolers who can barely find a window of time to listen to an audio book? YES! But we are also over 50,000 families of voters and constituents whose vote makes a difference and our MPs need to know this. So we are trying to make it easier for you...

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Why write a submission?

There are several reasons why you might want to write a submission to an Amendment Bill you oppose:

- **Make Your Voice Heard:**

The purpose of a committee review is to gather public feedback. A well-constructed submission opposing the Bill shows the committee there's public concern and helps them understand the potential negative impacts.

- **Influence the Bill:**

Your submission might lead to changes in the Bill. By highlighting specific problems, you could convince the committee to amend it or even scrap it entirely.

- **Set a Precedent:**

Even if the Bill passes in its current form, your submission becomes part of the public record. This can be helpful for future efforts to overturn or amend the legislation.

- **Educate Others:**

Writing a submission clarifies your own thinking about the Bill and helps you identify the strongest arguments against it. Sharing your submission with others can raise awareness and encourage them to take action.

Even if you think the committee is unlikely to completely change the Bill based on your submission, it's still worthwhile to express your opposition.

A strong showing of public disapproval can influence future legislation and send a message to policymakers.

How to Write your Submission

1. **Know the proposed amendments:** (See the FAQ pages below)
 - a. Understand the purpose and what it aims to achieve behind the words
2. **Form your opinion:**
 - a. Are there specific parts you like or dislike?
3. **Write your submission:**
 - a. **Keep it clear** and concise (ideally under 5 pages)
 - b. **Title:** Include the Bill's name (Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024).
 - c. **Introduction:** Briefly state who you are (individual/organisation) and your interest in the Bill.
 - d. **Your Viewpoint:** Explain your position on the Bill. Focus on the most important points.
 - i. **Support:** Highlight positive aspects and potential benefits.
 - ii. **Opposition:** Explain concerns and potential drawbacks.
 - e. **Recommendations** (Optional): Suggest improvements or alternative approaches.
 - f. **Evidence** (Optional): Back up claims with data, reports, or expert opinions.
4. **Submit to the Committee:**
 - a. Follow the instructions for submitting your submission (available via email, online, post)
 - b. Meet the **12 noon 25 March 2024 deadline!**
5. **Tips:**
 - a. Use respectful and professional language.
 - b. Proofread carefully for errors.
 - c. Consider including a cover letter with your contact details (separate from the submission).



FAQs: Protecting Home Education Freedom

These FAQs address concerns about proposed legislative changes to home education in the Education Act.

- Guiding Principles: Defining "Suitable"
 - Question: Who gets to decide what a "suitable educational environment" is?
 - Answer: The proposed changes give more control to the government over what is considered "suitable" for your child's education. This could potentially limit our ability to tailor education to our child's unique needs and learning style.
- Additional Conditions on Home Education Families
 - Question: Why are there new requirements for home educating families? Don't all families want their children to be educated well?
 - Answer: Existing regulations ensure child well-being. These changes add unnecessary burdens on families who have already chosen to take responsibility for their child's education.
- Equality for All Learners?
 - Question: Shouldn't all students, regardless of educational setting, have access to the same principles?
 - Answer: Absolutely! However, the proposed national curriculum may not be suitable for all learning styles or family values. A "one-size-fits-all" approach could limit learning opportunities for home-educated children.
- National Curriculum Concerns
 - Question: How can a single national curriculum address the needs of diverse learners, religious backgrounds, and cultural identities?
 - Answer: The national curriculum may not encompass the full range of educational options families seek. This could potentially restrict your ability to incorporate religious beliefs, cultural heritage, and personalized learning approaches into your child's education.
 - Question: What about children who have already completed the national curriculum in specific subjects?
 - Answer: The proposed changes don't address how to handle advanced students. You may be forced to repeat material your child already knows.
 - Question: Isn't reporting on every subject a huge burden for both parents and Home Education Units (HEUs)?
 - Answer: Yes! Extensive reporting requirements can take away valuable time from the actual process of educating your child.
- Control of Plans and Reports
 - Question: Shouldn't educators have control over their curriculum plans?
 - Answer: Currently, HEUs work with families to develop individualized plans. The proposed changes shift control to the government, potentially limiting your ability to shape your child's education.

FAQs: (continued 1)

- Increased Reporting and Overreach
 - Question: Why is the government seeking information outside of registration periods?
 - Answer: This intrusiveness goes beyond ensuring child well-being. It raises concerns about government overreach into your family's private educational choices.
 - Question: How will parents be expected to prove their child's safety and well-being?
 - Answer: The proposed changes lack clarity on how to demonstrate safety and well-being. This could create unnecessary stress for families.
- Reduced Response Time for "Show Cause" Notices
 - Question: Why are families receiving less time to respond to "show cause" notices?
 - Answer: The reduced timeframe makes it difficult, especially for families unfamiliar with the process, to gather information and prepare a proper response.
- Changes to Registration and Centrelink
 - Question: Why are registration certificates being replaced with notices?
 - Answer: This removes a valuable document that families use for various purposes.
 - Question: How will Centrelink use information about any imposed conditions on registration?
 - Answer: This raises concerns about Centrelink using information about your home education choices to impact your access to benefits.
- Immediate Registration Applications
 - Question: Shouldn't families have flexibility in registering, even for short periods of home education?
 - Answer: The requirement to register immediately, even for short-term home education, creates unnecessary administrative burdens.

We encourage you to learn more about the proposed changes and advocate for your right to choose how to educate your child!



FAQs: (continued 2)

I'm not registered, how can I be heard?

You absolutely have a say in the proposed amendment bill, even if you're not a registered homeschooler! Here are some ways you can make your voice heard:

- **Public Submissions:** The Parliamentary Committee considering the bill have a public submission process. This means anyone can submit their opinion on the bill, even if they aren't directly affected.
- **Contact your Local Representative:** Members of Parliament (MPs) are there to represent your interests. Find your local MP's contact information on the government website or through a quick web search. Write them an email or call their office to express your concerns about the bill.
- **Sign a Petition:** Organisations opposed to the bill might have started a petition. Signing a petition shows the Committee there's broader opposition and adds weight to your individual voice.
- **Social Media:** Express your views on social media using relevant hashtags to raise awareness. Be respectful but clear in your message.

Tips for Writing a Submission:

- **Focus on the Issues:** Clearly state why you oppose the bill and how it might negatively impact you, your community, or society in general.
- **Be Respectful:** Maintain a professional tone, even if you disagree strongly.
- **Keep it Concise:** Focus on the most important points and avoid rambling.
- **Proofread:** Typos and grammatical errors can undermine your message.

Remember, every voice counts! Don't be afraid to participate in the democratic process.



LET US KNOW WHEN
**YOUR SUBMISSION
GOES IN BEFORE....**

**12NOON ON
MARCH 25TH!**

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