Education and Training Reform Regulations Review

Attn: Strategic Policy Division

Department of Education and Training

GPO Box 4367 Melbourne 3001

SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT EDUCATION AND TRAINING REFORM REGULATIONS 2017

I am writing in regards to the draft Education Regulations (Home Education). I have been educating my children for 9 years. They are all well adjusted, confident, happy, sociable and academically ahead of their peers in school. They still retain a love of learning and devour any information that comes their way. I am at a total loss to understand why you would wish to change this and impose unnecessary and harmful regulations on something that happens so naturally.

PLANS

I object to being forced to make a plan. My children often learn things spontaneously during the course of the day or they may discover an interest and passionately study it for a month. I feel that having to be constrained to a plan will ruin their natural learning and curiosity. Also having to create and stick to a plan will limit the time when we are just learning. What exactly is its purpose? Teachers do not create individual learning plans for children in school so why do we have to? Also my children are learning at a fantastic rate without limitations of 9-3. They learn all the time. The evidence I have seen for children learning at school would suggest the way they are being taught is a lot less effective than the way I teach my children, So why am I being told to change that? If you truly care about my children’s education you will not try to fix something that is not broken.

APPROVAL TO REMOVE CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL

I find this extremely ridiculous and downright dangerous. If you have a child that is not coping in school for whatever reason and the parent can see they need to be immediately removed, then it should not be a question of waiting for approval from someone who doesn’t know the child. A parent can best judge their child’s situation. For example, if a child is showing suicidal tendencies due to bullying at school and the parents see a need to remove the child immediately, do you really think it is safe to leave the child in this environment for 28 + days? What if during this time they were to commit suicide?

INCREASED POWER FOR THE VRQA

I dislike the idea that the VRQA has the power to decide whether or not I am a fit person to educate my children. The VRQA in my experience does not see home education as a good option and actively discourages it. They do not understand that home schoolers educate their children in different ways. If you need to regulate us then please give this power to someone who truly understands home schooled families and has at least 5 years experience as a home educator.

CONCLUSION

Before changing the regulations I would like to see some evidence that home education doesn’t work. I believe if someone did the necessary research they would find as I have that children who are home educated are confident, relaxed, happy, sociable and extremely well educated.