

Consultation

MRRT and related measures Repeal

Name

Mrs Alison Joy Morgan

Submission text

31 October 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to make a comment on the MRRT and related measures Repeal bill, in particular the part of the bill that deals with the Schoolkids Bonus (SKB).

My husband and I have made the choice to homeschool our children. I have found the SKB very helpful in paying for items I have needed to homeschool, such as levelled books to teach reading; reference books and/or workbooks for several areas of English, Maths, Science and History; other necessities such as stationery and other educationally valuable items such as entry fees incurred while on excursions. Prior to the introduction of the SKB, I accessed the Education Tax Refund (ETR) to recompense me for the purchase of these items and many other items I needed to initially set myself up to homeschool, such as hands-on maths resources and English resources.

I would like to ask that the decision to repeal the SKB be reconsidered or that an alternative way of helping people like me with the costs of educating my children be instituted.

I understand the Coalition's publicised reason for repealing the SKB is that it's "cash splash with borrowed money that has nothing to do with education"

(<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/abbott-flags-axing-of-student-bonus-20130131-2dmgx.html#ixzz2jEunVGmY>). In my case it has everything to do with education.

Could you consider changing the SKB so that it is only offered to registered homeschooling parents, perhaps to be considered as an alternative to the funding our children would receive if they were being educated outside the home?

Another way of continuing to help me with the costs of educating my children would be to reinstitute the Education Tax Refund. I note that the Coalition has been reported as having at one stage argued "its preference for the old system where families had to provide receipts to be reimbursed for education expenses"(<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/abbott-flags-axing-of-student-bonus-20130131-2dmgx.html#ixzz2jEw2xBIG>). In the first quote I have included, I understand the term 'borrowed money' is an assertion that the SKB is supposed to be being funded by the MRRT, and that the revenues from that tax are not sufficient to cover the payment of the SKB, therefore the Labor government has had to find other sources from which to make the payment. This may be a valid point. The ETR, on the other hand, was instituted at least 4 years previous to the MRRT, so cannot be said to be being paid for by 'borrowed money' in the same way as has been asserted with regard to the SKB. While the amount I could receive from the ETR would be less than half what I have received from the SKB, it would still go a significant way towards offsetting the ongoing costs I incur homeschooling my children.

I would greatly appreciate my arguments being given appropriate consideration and a reply would also be greatly appreciated.

Thank-you for your time,

Alison Morgan

Please note that some of the content of this submission is from an email I sent to Senator the Hon Marise Payne on the 18th September 2013.