Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From:

To: <u>Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee</u>

Subject: Proposed Changes to Home Education Requirements

Date: Monday, 11 March 2024 9:19:28 AM

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you to express my disappointment in the proposed changes to the legislation around Home Education. We home educate our three children between the ages of 11 and 6. We have been home educating since my eldest began prep. During this time we have utilised a lot of resources which are curriculum aligned. I appreciate having access to these tools but I do not let them dictate what my child should be learning and when. My children are all neurodivergent and have differing abilities across different disciplines. Sometimes we are studying things the curriculum would prescribe to older students, and sometimes we move back to the basics to reinforce early principles and address noticed deficits and memory gaps. The reason we home educate is because it allows us to give our children a completely personalised, bespoke education which is tailored to meet their individual needs.

I understand the benefit of a curriculum in delivering carefully measured, progressively advancing material to a large group of students but when you can work with your learner one on one this is not needed. It was also important to us to not replicate school at home as school is not the ideal environment for many children. Some of our children require a lot of autonomy to be able to engage with their learning and we can see how greatly this benefits them. Home educating is not performing "school" at home, but is a way of life where we care for our whole child and nurture the learning opportunities in their life in whatever shape they may present, in whatever way that best suits our child.

I thank you for your careful consideration of this matter as you think through the consequences of the proposed changes for the families who make up our home education community.

Yours sincerely, Kathleen Miller

