Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From:
To: Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee
Subject: Feedback on Ammendments to Education Bill

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Date:

I am writing to express my concerns with the amendments to the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. As a home educating family, there are provisions in this bill that I do not support, and further, I believe will be detrimental to my family and home education students in general.

As an ex-teacher with a background in Psychology I am disappointed to see how our education system has moved away from celebrating and encouraging diversity to a one size fits all approach. One of the strengths of home education is being able to completely tailor a curriculum to the individual needs of each student. I'm sure we would all agree that every child is unique and should be encouraged to develop their talents and gifts in a supportive environment and yet this Bill is proposing to destroy this truly incredible facet of home education - one that leads to so many successful graduates - to instead force all students to follow a prescribed curriculum.

Families who home educate have been completely ignored by the education department for years. There is no funding (apart from a small amount of AIC if eligible), no support for the parents who are teaching, no access to many of the educational programs that schools can access, etc. Having these ammendments sprung on us with no consultation (the consultation that was done two years ago has obviously just been ignored) is completely disrespectful and a slap in the face to the thousands of families who have taken on the education of their children with no help from the education department and at great personal cost.

I hope that the changes to home education that have been included as part of this amendment are removed and that the government and representatives from the home education community can have a true discussion as to how home education can be improved and all students supported to achieve success going forward.

Thank you,	
Jenene Richards	
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