Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From:

To: Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee

Subject: Submission regarding EDUCATION (GENERAL PROVISIONS) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

2024

Date: Tuesday, 12 March 2024 5:08:46 PM

Dear Committee Secretary and Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee,

I am writing to emphasize the profound impact of individualized curriculums in homeschooling, as experienced by home educating families like mine. Our collective experience highlights that personalized programs not only facilitate exceptionally high-quality education but also foster levels of engagement and achievement that transcend the limitations of institutional curriculums.

Homeschooling empowers parents to tailor educational experiences that cater to the unique interests, strengths, and learning styles of each child. By customizing the curriculum to suit their individual needs, we can ignite a passion for learning and drive academic success in ways that may seem unimaginable within the constraints of a standardized curriculum designed for institutional settings.

One of my close friends is a Queensland teacher and has shared her own frustration of not being able to move from the curriculum when a curious student asks a question. Her concern is that it may move the class lesson slightly off topic. My son is very inquisitive and struggles to continue his focus and learning motivation if he is left with questions unanswered. Currently, in our homeschooling we have the flexibility to allow him to explore an answer to his question in depth and foster ownership of his own learning.

Through individualized programs, our children are afforded the freedom to explore subjects deeply, pursue their passions ardently, and develop critical thinking skills that extend far beyond the classroom. This approach nurtures a sense of ownership and agency in their learning journey, resulting in higher levels of engagement and motivation.

I quote Karey Swan, a well known homeschool mother, author and speaker. "Modern education is reductionist, which means it is characterized by islands of specialized information surrounded by oceans of interdisciplinary ignorance." To Mrs. Swan's point, I personally have found that my early primary school age children learn best through story telling found in high quality literature and unit learning. When they are able to make their own connections between subjects they develop a web of meaning and a big picture. Then additional facts have a framework to be hung and interpreted.

Furthermore, individualized education cultivates a holistic approach to learning, where real-world experiences, interdisciplinary studies, and personalized projects play integral roles in the educational process. This dynamic approach not only fosters academic excellence but also equips our children with the skills and competencies necessary to thrive in an ever-evolving world.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to recognize and <u>maintain in legislation</u> the use of individualized curriculums in homeschooling. By embracing the diversity of approaches within homeschooling and valuing the autonomy of families to craft personalized educational experiences, we can ensure that every child receives the high-quality education they deserve.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely.

^{*}request for my name to be withheld from my published submission