

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 49
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Attachments:
Submitter Comments:

Richard Williams

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Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Changes to Homeschooling Legislation

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my overwhelming opposition to the proposed changes in homeschooling legislation, particularly the requirement to follow a specific curriculum. As a homeschooling parent, I firmly believe that these changes would undermine the very reasons why many families, including mine, have chosen homeschooling as the preferred mode of education for our child.

These changes to the current legislation dangerously infringe on our right to educate our child how we see fit.

The essence of homeschooling lies in the freedom it affords children to learn in a manner that aligns with their individual interests, abilities, and learning styles. By imposing a mandated curriculum, these proposed changes would impede my child's autonomy and hinder his ability to pursue education in a way that best suits his needs.

Our son has attended 6 schools since meeting "school age", 7 years ago. He has ASD, GAD (Generalised Anxiety Disorder) and ARFID (Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder). If you are unfamiliar with ARFID, I have provided a link to an information sheet below:

[NEDC-Fact-Sheet-ARFID.pdf](#)

This combination has meant that there is no school environment that he is able to attend which offers him the support he requires and is able to provide him with the same quality education that we can, at home.

One of the primary motivations for homeschooling is to provide our child with a personalized learning experience that fosters his intellectual curiosity and allows him to learn at his own pace, in a safe and sensory friendly environment. These new proposed regulations threaten to restrict this flexibility and stifle his natural inclination to explore and discover the world around him.

Furthermore, enforcing a standardized curriculum fails to recognize the diverse interests and talents of homeschooling students. It overlooks the fact that every child has a unique learning style and they may thrive in different subject areas or learning environments not taught by the schools or Curriculum. By imposing rigid educational requirements, we not only risk depriving our children of the opportunity to pursue their passions and develop their full potential, but to hinder what they have learned thus far in a home school environment, far from being with the noisy, scented 35+ children stuck in a classroom corner where the teacher is overwhelmed and overworked and doesn't understand the complexity that a child with ASD has in that environment. Teaching our child at home in a way that he can ACTUALLY learn and excel in a way how he wants to learn and understand, IS how we provide him with a high-quality education, something that the Australian Curriculum and Education system, has failed thus far to do.

Making parents follow the Australian Curriculum does not mean that they will be giving their child a high-quality education, it simply means we are forcing them to learn within mandated guidelines that don't care about their individuality, safety, well-being or future dreams and prospects.

In essence, these proposed changes would not only undermine the fundamental principles of homeschooling but also limit my child's ability to learn and grow in a way that honours his individuality and creativity. As a homeschooling parent deeply invested in my child's education, I urge the committee to reconsider these restrictive measures and instead, focus

on supporting families in providing a rich and diverse educational experience tailored to the needs of each child.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,
Richard Williams

[Homeschooling Parent]

