

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

I am writing to inform you that I do not support these proposed changes in relation to homeschooling. My children home school, and love it, because it offers them freedom to be children and be curious. My children learn at their own level without the pressure to perform to a standardise measure of what is "right" for their age. Of course, as their mother, I worry they are behind and not level with their peers, but time and time again they have shown me that they always get there even if it is considered late by your standards. Adding to this, my children are also not bogged down learning things from a curriculum that tells them what they must learn at a particular age. They are free to be interested in and learn about what interests them right now. Children retain so much more when they are genuinely interested in what they are learning about, and it will be sad if that needs to stop and they are forced to follow something that bores them and therefore they retain little from their lessons. Not to mention the large amount of unread and unnecessary reporting that will be required. If this is eventually required, I hope you will allow what is provided from schools. Just a one page report card with marks and a quick comment per subject. It doesn't seem fair you will impose us to be a 'school at home' and yet still expect us to provide reporting and samples to the original level of individualised learning. Reporting for twins has me providing samples that show their individuality and skills, but then their interests and learning are different. If you insist I teach them identically, it is only fair you accept identical reports. You say you want to support and help all children, but these proposed changes do not seem to be helping the children or the parents that nurture and teach them in the homeschool community. I am all for changes that will provide support, help and a better future for our children, but unfortunately these proposed changes don't fit that. Please, would you do more research into the homeschooling community before you make sweeping changes to your legislation? We would appreciate it if you did.