

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 127
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Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Changes to Homeschooling Legislation
Dear Committee Members, I am writing to express my strong 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 children. 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 children's autonomy and hinder their ability to pursue education in a way that best suits their needs. One of the primary motivations for homeschooling is to provide our children with a personalised learning experience that fosters their intellectual curiosity and allows them to learn at their own pace. These new regulations threaten to restrict this flexibility and stifle their natural inclination to explore and discover the world around them. Furthermore, enforcing a standardised curriculum fails to recognise the diverse interests and talents of homeschooling students. It overlooks the fact that every child is unique and may thrive in different subject areas or learning environments. I have graduated two home educated children. One is studying law and the other is studying design. Both are under 18 years of age and I have one more who is studying chemistry at a tertiary level - he is 14 years old. They are learning and growing in a way that is not possible inside a standardised curriculum. By imposing rigid educational requirements, we risk depriving our children of the opportunity to pursue their passions and develop their full potential. This outcome hurts all of society. Rather than enforcing adherence to a standardised curriculum, I propose that we allocate resources towards funding research and innovation in home education. By investing in comprehensive studies that explore the effectiveness of various homeschooling methodologies and curricular approaches, we can better understand how to support homeschooling families in providing high-quality education for their children. In essence, these proposed changes would not only undermine the fundamental principles of homeschooling but also limit my children's ability to learn and grow in a way that honours their individuality and creativity. As a homeschooling parent deeply invested in my children'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, Alexis Christenson [Homeschooling Parent]