

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 155
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Subject: Ensuring Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities: A Call for Action
Dear Committee Members, As a homeschooling parent of a child with several disabilities, I am deeply disappointed by the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation. For many children with disabilities and neurodivergences, homeschooling is not a choice but a necessity—an opportunity to create an environment where they can thrive at their own pace and in their own unique way. It is disheartening to see a focus on making homeschooling more rigid rather than addressing the systemic barriers that prevent many children with disabilities from accessing quality education in mainstream schools. Instead of imposing restrictive measures on homeschooling families, the committee's efforts would be better directed towards making mainstream schools more accessible and inclusive for all students, regardless of their abilities or differences. Children with disabilities often face significant challenges in traditional school settings, where rigid structures and standardized approaches may not accommodate their diverse needs. Homeschooling provides a lifeline for these children, offering the flexibility and personalized support they require to learn and grow in a safe and nurturing environment. We have only just started our home education journey. After six years of mainstream schooling where we advocated tirelessly for our child to receive the support and accommodations she needs, paying privately for assessments and years of therapies, bringing in multiple health professionals to support the school in supporting our child, we have finally had to accept that our child is unable to access a quality education in a mainstream setting. Teachers have been unsuccessful in supporting our child to follow the Australian Curriculum. And pressure to do so has resulted in our child losing confidence in her abilities as she has fallen further behind with each passing year. This has seriously affected our child's mental health and wellbeing. Replicating the school approach at home will not help our child. What she needs is a different way to learn tailored to her unique learning style, abilities and interests in order to meet her where she is at, rather than requiring her to meet neurotypical developmental standards and goals. Rather than limiting the options available to families, we should be working to ensure that all children have access to a range of educational opportunities that meet their individual needs and preferences. This includes advocating for greater resources and support for inclusive education practices within mainstream schools, as well as providing alternative options like homeschooling for those who require a more tailored approach. In conclusion, I urge the committee to reconsider its approach to the homeschooling legislation amendments and to prioritize the needs of children with disabilities and neurodivergences. Thank you for considering my perspective. Sincerely, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]