

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 156
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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. Above all, learning should be enjoyable so that it leads to a desire for more learning. I am a psychologist, and many children I see state they do not enjoy school and find it boring. My home-schooled child has never found learning boring except when we were expected to follow the curriculum whilst doing Distance Education. At 6, my child watched me test the quality of the water in our pool. This led to a conversation about acidity and alkalinity. I then provided him with a bottle of universal indicator and he spent 45 minutes testing the pH of every fluid in our house. Is that part of the prep curriculum? Through Distance Education, he was expected to learn 10 sight words a week and progress through certain levels on readers. He hated it, he struggled so we stopped. I took him back to the letter sounds we played games and had fun until he had these all clear in his mind. The rest then came easily and he has been a fluent reader since and is able to read far above his year level and far more importantly, he enjoys reading. In grade 2, he wanted to do 'harder' maths so I introduced him to algebra, which he loved and is good at. My child does not know what a parallelogram is. He does, however, understand percentages, interest rates, and inflation because he asked to learn this. Is following the curriculum really the best way to educate him? I believe he should be afforded the fundamental right to learn and study that which interests him. Thank you for your time. Katie Boast