

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

I am a registered teacher with twenty years experience in education. I have worked in Special Schools as well as Mainstream and Montessori environments. I homeschool my child now. She is 12 and after trying several school environments, we made this choice for her best interest. I left my career in education because school was not serving her. She is neurodivergent, as are MANY of our homeschool friends. She requires tailored learning to her interests, her individual skills, strengths and the areas that require additional attention. She would not be able to attend a mainstream high school and retain her mental wellbeing and learning at the standard that she achieves at home. At home, we work at her pace and study a huge variety of topics and subjects. They do not necessarily align to the National Curriculum. She is currently learning about crystals and geology, she's fascinated by horses and I create from scratch as much of her work as possible so that it is made exactly for her. I understand that there is a desire to ensure children who are homeschooled are receiving a quality education. After working a several schools, of a wide variety, as well as meeting a huge number of homeschooling families, I can assure you that the children in schools need your attention and assistance far more than the homeschoolers do. Schools lack funding, they lack support staff, they are cornered by the curriculum and forced to move at a pace that might not suit all learners. They need more teachers, more teaching assistants and a better understanding of neurodiversity. Schools need an overhaul when it comes to what passes as "behaviour support" because the current system is broken. Names on pegs being moved up and down to shame children, bribes of tickets and prizes, a focus on "good" and "bad" feelings and an overwhelming control of adults leading to classes full of kids who are disruptive, disregulated and lacking independence.

Homeschoolers are not in danger. We are working harder than ever to ensure our kids are given exactly what they need. We are ready to show you what we do, if you want to come and look. But don't ask us to do what schools do. We chose homeschool for a reason.