

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

Dear [Committee Members], As someone deeply invested in the education of my children, I've made the conscious choice to homeschool, recognizing that the mainstream educational system may not always suit or, in some cases, can even harm children. Over the years, I've had the privilege of homeschooling 4 children, each with their unique learning styles, interests, and needs. These experiences have provided me with invaluable insights into the challenges and opportunities of homeschooling. I firmly believe that without lived experience, it's challenging to fully grasp the intricacies of homeschooling and to understand what legislative measures are truly needed to ensure homeschooled children receive a quality education. It's not merely about enforcing rigid curriculum requirements but rather about fostering an environment that empowers parents to provide personalized, holistic education tailored to their children's individual needs and aspirations. While the Australian curriculum may be presented as a superior option, it's essential to acknowledge that it's just one of many possibilities. For some children, it may indeed be adequate, but for others, it may not align with their learning preferences or life goals. This underscores the importance of offering diverse schooling options and supporting parents in making informed decisions about their children's education. My oldest two children aged 20 and 21 have recently graduated Civil Engineering at university and this despite never attending a school. I think this demonstrates that the education my sons received allowed them to study at a very high level. One of my sons moved much quicker through his schooling due to being gifted. He actually was accepted into uni while still 15 years. Homeschooling allowed me to tailor the education to his needs. The beauty of homeschooling is the opportunity to specifically plan and deliver education matched to individual interests and aptitude. My daughter has complex medical needs that affect her education. She also has had her education tailored to her fluctuating attention span during times when she was quite unwell. It's important that time is not wasted by parents understanding and applying tick box thinking and educational speak. Education is much more than the narrow experience offered in the traditional school setting. Trying to fit homeschooling into the school model takes away from the essence of why it is so successful. It's the flexibility and tailoring to the individual child that sets homeschooling far above schooling in a group class setting. It's what the school system would love to be able to achieve but lacks the student teacher ratio to perform. In conclusion, I urge the committee to approach homeschooling legislation with a deep appreciation for the lived experiences of homeschooling families and a commitment to ensuring that all children have access to a quality education that meets their unique needs. By listening to the voices of homeschooling parents and advocating for policies that promote flexibility, autonomy, and inclusivity, we can create a more equitable and responsive educational system for all. Thank you for considering my perspective.