

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 188
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Subject: Reconsidering Homeschooling Legislation: Addressing Real Issues

Dear Committee Members,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express some concerns regarding the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation. As stakeholders in the homeschooling community, it's imperative that we engage in a thorough examination of the real issues prompting families to opt for homeschooling rather than simply enforcing rigid curriculum requirements.

It has come to my attention that the proposed changes primarily focus on mandating adherence to a standardized curriculum without delving into the underlying reasons why many families choose homeschooling in the first place. This approach fails to address the core issues at hand and risks further alienating homeschooling families from the educational system.

It's crucial to acknowledge that homeschooling is often chosen by families for a variety of reasons, including dissatisfaction with the traditional schooling system, concerns about safety and bullying, religious or philosophical beliefs, or a desire for more personalized and flexible learning experiences tailored to individual student needs.

As a homeschooling family we have chosen to leave the state education system due to many of these reasons. In doing so we have seen our children flourish in all ways – academically, socially and emotionally. They are happy and engaged young people who want to learn and want to participate in our society. Not following the national curriculum has led to our children becoming self-motivated learners because they have the time and space to learn on their own timeline. It surely can be argued that this highly personalised educational model we adopt as home schoolers is in fact a higher quality education than the one size fits all model you propose.

The national curriculum you have referred to in the proposed legislation is not suitable for many young people, and to try and impose this onto homeschooled families will not achieve better outcomes. Indeed, we feel it will create many more problems for our children and in our society at large.

Rather than imposing stricter regulations, I urge the committee to prioritize understanding and addressing the root causes of homeschooling trends. This entails listening to and considering the feedback from homeschooling parents, who are directly impacted by these legislative changes. Their insights and experiences are invaluable in shaping effective policies that support the diverse needs of families while ensuring the well-being and educational success of children.

In conclusion, I respectfully urge the committee to reconsider the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation and to engage in a collaborative dialogue with homeschooling stakeholders to identify and address the real issues driving this educational choice. By doing so, we can work towards a more inclusive and responsive educational system that respects the choices and concerns of all families.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Yvette Hart