

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 240
Submitted by: Kate Harriden
Publication:
Attachments: No attachment
Submitter Comments:

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Advocating for Homeschooling: Supporting Children's Individual Learning Needs
Date: Monday, 11 March 2024 11:05:43 PM

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed legislation changes to homeschooling practices. As a homeschooling parent deeply invested in my children's education, I urge the committee to reconsider these measures, which threaten to undermine the autonomy and effectiveness of homeschooling.

For many homeschooling families, including mine, the decision to homeschool stems from a desire to provide our children with an educational experience that honours their individual interests, strengths, and aspirations. Homeschooling allows our children to pursue their passions, delve deeply into subjects that captivate their curiosity, and develop the skills necessary to succeed in their chosen paths.

By following their own learning interests and setting goals tailored to their personal futures, homeschooled children are empowered to take ownership of their education and chart a course that aligns with their unique talents and ambitions. This personalized approach fosters a sense of agency and self-efficacy that is often lacking in traditional school settings, where children may feel constrained by rigid structures and standardized expectations.

As a homeschooling parent, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact of this approach on our children's academic success, personal development, and overall well-being. Rather than seeing children fail, homeschooling offers a lifeline—a chance for children to thrive in environments that nurture their individuality and potential. In school both my children were withdrawn and falling behind due to a speech disorder and anxiety. At home they are flourishing, exceeding academic standards, working towards real life passion projects, engaging in the community and becoming confident, articulate, kind and compassionate young people.

I ask that you provide evidence that the proposed legislation is in the best interest of the homeschooling community and evidence that you have that the current model of registration, reporting and legislation for homeschoolers is inadequate?

I implore you to take the time to speak directly with homeschooling families in the community (not just a carefully selected group who do not actually represent us) and listen to our insights and experiences. By understanding the diverse motivations and approaches within the homeschooling community, we can work together to create policies that

support children's individual learning needs and ensure that every child has high quality education and the opportunity to succeed.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kate Harriden

[Redacted signature block]

[Homeschooling Parent and Advocate]