

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Changes to Homeschooling Legislation
Date: Tuesday, 12 March 2024 11:29:05 AM

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.

One of the primary motivations for homeschooling is to provide our children with a personalized learning experience that fosters their intellectual curiosity and allows them to learn at their own pace. These new regulations threaten to restrict this flexibility and stifle their natural inclination to explore and discover the world around them.

Furthermore, enforcing a standardized curriculum fails to recognize the diverse interests and talents of homeschooling students. It overlooks the fact that every child is unique and may thrive in different subject areas or learning environments. By imposing rigid educational requirements, we risk depriving our children of the opportunity to pursue their passions and develop their full potential.

In essence, these proposed changes would not only undermine the fundamental principles of homeschooling but also limit my children's ability to learn and grow in a way that honors their individuality and creativity. As a homeschooling parent deeply invested in my children's education, I urge the committee to reconsider these restrictive measures and instead focus on supporting families in providing a rich and diverse educational experience tailored to the needs of each child.

I am new to homeschooling with my oldest son (level 2 asd), with whom I have spent years struggling to get him out of the car in the school drop off and many, many discussions with teachers around how to engage him in lessons when he does attend school. I have been heartbroken seeing a consistently unhappy, anxious child being forced to attend somewhere where he doesn't learn due to boredom, bullying, anxieties caused by pressures of assignments and tests and loneliness, as he struggles to make friends. I eventually started homeschooling my son after trying 3 high schools (2 being independent and specifically for disengaged children) in the space of 1.5 years, during which time I am not sure how much he actually learnt. My son learns better when he is studying a topic that interests him and will totally switch off when having to learn a topic he finds pointless and boring. He needs the freedom to follow his interests and learning styles in order to keep him engaged in learning. Thankfully, he enjoys maths and is good at it. My son is happier now than he has been in a long time, as we figure out together how he best learns and what interests we can build on together. While mainstream schooling and following the curriculum may work for some (my youngest is still in mainstream schooling and seems to be thriving), it doesn't work for all children, my oldest being an example of this. Homeschooling was definitely not my first choice, but seeing the impact of the school environment on my son and realising that he was in fact learning very little

due partly to his lack of interest in subjects I made the decision to home school. I still try include the usual subjects, but I am trying to find a way that best suits my son in studying each subject. I am often amazed at the topics he will discuss with his Dad and I while we are playing board games or eating dinner, that he has picked up from Youtube or read on the internet. We wouldn't have had these discussions a year ago.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Veenendaal

[Homeschooling Parent]

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