Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 249

Submitted by: Amy Pirrotta

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From:

Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee

Subject: Concern Regarding Proposed Changes to Homeschooling Legislation

Date: Tuesday, 12 March 2024 5:03:08 PM

Dear committee members,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed changes to homeschooling laws. As a parent who has chosen homeschooling as the best educational option for my family, I firmly believe that these changes will have detrimental effects on our ability to provide a high quality education for our children.

Homeschooling has been instrumental in fostering a tailored learning environment that meets the unique needs and interests of my children. It has allowed us the flexibility to explore various subjects in depth and to prioritize hands-on, experiential learning opportunities that traditional schooling often cannot accommodate.

Furthermore, homeschooling has provided us with the opportunity to instil important values and beliefs that align with our family's principles. The proposed changes threaten to undermine our autonomy as parents to make educational decisions that are in the best interest of our children's development and well-being.

I urge you to consider the diverse needs and preferences of families who have chosen homeschooling as a viable educational option. A great deal of families, including mine, are providing our neurodivergent children with a high quality, tailored education that they would not be able to receive in a classroom of 25 other children. Our children are happy and thriving with the current home education system. Enforcing the use of ACARA in the homeschooling setting (a curriculum that was designed to be delivered by a teacher to 25+ students in a classroom setting) would be incredibly detrimental to my neurodivergent daughter's wellbeing. It would completely undermine the countless hours that we have spent with her specialist therapists in creating an environment in which she can flourish. Instead of imposing restrictive measures, I encourage the government to support homeschooling families by providing resources and assistance to ensure the success of our children's education.

The choice to educate from home is not one that is made lightly. It takes an extraordinary amount of dedication and sacrifice, lifestyle changes, giving up careers, living on single incomes to even make this possible. This is something my family is happy do though, to ensure that our children have the absolute best possible education; one that is individualised and meaningful to each of them.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I hope that together, we

can work towards policies that respect the rights and choices of homeschooling families.

Sincerely,

Amy Pirrotta