

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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To : Hon Di Farmer

RE: 'Modernise and improve home education services'

I removed both my children from the State Education System in 2021. I found that my children (ages now 8 & 9) were not being taught in a way they could understand the basic topics. The support just wasn't there for my two boys who have Autism and one with suspected dyslexia. The bullying was also out of control which impeded on their education.

I am having to go back to the basics because they were not supported properly and were rushed to progress despite not understanding the basic principles.

My eldest son with suspected dyslexia now has an aversion to learning because he wasn't supported and feels he is stupid. I understand schools have limited resources which means that if your child needs additional support or to be taught a subject in a different way there just isn't the support available. This is why I homeschool. We also learn based on their skill level and to promote a love of learning, we focus on utilising areas of interest for their learning. My youngest is extremely bright and when taught a way that he understands, can master things really easily but when I'm teaching him, I can recognise if he isn't understanding how I'm teaching it and I can alter the way I'm explaining it until I find a way that he understands.

My boys are able to access learning of skills which they wouldn't be able to if they attended a traditional school. These include but are not limited to, cooking, woodworking, bush skills, swimming, tennis, life skills both personal and financial. The boys get to ask me questions when they pop into their heads and they get answers straight away or we look them up if I don't know.

We chose homeschooling because it's what is in the best interests of my boys and their education.

If you truly want to help home educators provide more to their child's education, instead of forcing them to follow the school system teachings which didn't work in the first place and is why we pulled them out, you could look into the following;

- Consult with the homeschooling community and ask what would best support the education of their child/children.
- Provide free resource apps that the schools currently have access to, without homeschoolers pay for them.

- Provide the funds that would have been allocated to the schools for each child to the registered homeschooling parent to access additional materials to support their child's learning.
- Provide a wage for the home educator seeing as they would now be teachers, and most can't work due to the commitment of being the educator.

We don't remove our children from school because it's easier, far from it. We do it because we want our children to have the highest and best quality education available to them and to have a good relationship with our children so they can contribute to society and be successful in life.

Thank You

Jade Stack