

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 324
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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Dear Members, I am writing to express my concerns with the amendments to the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 that Minister Di Farmer is trying to have passed that directly affects homeschooled children. As a home educating family, there are provisions in this bill that I do not support, and further, I believe will be detrimental to my family. I have deep concerns regarding the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation, specifically the requirement to adhere to a prescribed curriculum. This part of the proposal is something I cannot approve of, and this has caused a lot of stress and anxiety for myself knowing that this format would undermine everything my child and I have worked towards in improving her education, mental health and physical health by choosing the home school method for our family. As a parent homeschooling a child with complex learning difficulties, including Meares-Irlene Syndrome (visual perception disorder), Dyscalculia (maths, number based learning disorder), Dysgraphia (writing disorder), anxiety disorder, and other medical challenges affecting her learning, I urge you to consider the importance of maintaining flexible learning environments that cater to the unique needs of each child. Having transitioned my child from mainstream schooling, where she struggled and failed to thrive, to a homeschooling environment, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of personalised, interest-driven learning. Unlike the rigid structures of traditional education, homeschooling has allowed my child to explore subjects that genuinely captivate her interests, enabling her to engage with learning in a meaningful way. My child has fallen through the gaps in the mainstream system from Prep to year 6 and her self-esteem, confidence and love of learning were impacted significantly. The Occupational Therapist has stated that the only way that my child is going to be able to learn the fundamentals she has missed from prep to year 6, is if she has one on one teaching out of the school environment. For children like mine, who face various learning challenges, flexibility is not just a preference but a necessity. It is through this flexibility that we can adapt our teaching methods to accommodate their individual learning styles and provide the support they need to succeed. By tailoring our approach to their interests, we not only keep them engaged but also instil in them a lifelong love for learning. The proposed changes to mandate a specific curriculum threaten to undermine the very essence of homeschooling—its ability to nurture the unique strengths and talents of each child. By imposing uniform standards, we risk alienating children who do not fit into the conventional mold and depriving them of the opportunity to thrive academically and personally. As a homeschooling parent deeply committed to my child's education, I implore you to reconsider these proposed regulations. Instead of stifling creativity and individuality, let us work together to safeguard the flexibility and autonomy that make homeschooling such a valuable educational option for families like mine. Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I trust that you will make the decision that best serves the interests of all children, ensuring they have access to educational opportunities that honour their uniqueness and foster their growth. Should you wish to discuss these concerns further, please feel free to contact me. Sincerely, [REDACTED] Homeschooling Parent/Educator