

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 375
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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Ensuring Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities: A Call for Action
Date: Friday, 15 March 2024 3:29:24 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As a homeschooling parent of a child with several disabilities, I am deeply disappointed by the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation. For many children with disabilities and neurodivergence, homeschooling is not just a choice but a necessity—an opportunity to create an environment where they can thrive at their own pace and in their own unique way.

It is disheartening to see a focus on making homeschooling more rigid rather than addressing the systemic barriers that prevent many children with disabilities from accessing quality education in mainstream schools.

Instead of imposing restrictive measures on homeschooling families, the committee's efforts would be better directed towards making mainstream schools more accessible and inclusive for all students, regardless of their abilities or differences.

Children with disabilities often face significant challenges in traditional school settings, where standardised approaches and a scaffold learning style may not accommodate their diverse needs.

Homeschooling provides a lifeline for these children, offering the flexibility and personalized support they require to learn and grow in a safe and nurturing environment.

Rather than limiting the options available to families, we should be working to ensure that all children have access to a range of educational opportunities that meet their individual needs and preferences. This includes advocating for greater resources and support for inclusive education practices within mainstream schools, as well as providing alternative options like homeschooling for those who require a more tailored approach.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to reconsider its approach to homeschooling legislation and to prioritize the needs of children with disabilities and neurodivergence's by allowing them this freedom to learn.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,

Natasha Krelle

Homeschooling Parent of a Child with Disabilities

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Ensuring an Inclusive Education for All Children
Date: Saturday, 23 March 2024 2:19:00 PM

Dear Committee Members,

I hope this letter finds you well. I write to you today not just as a concerned parent, but as someone deeply invested in the well-being and education of my child, who happens to have several disabilities. Our journey as a homeschooling family is only a few years in, and I want to share a glimpse of our story with you.

When it became evident that traditional schooling options were not adequately meeting our son's needs, we faced a difficult decision. Special Education Schools were, at the time, full capacity and had lengthy waitlists, our school of choice for him, refused admission due to his high learning needs and so we found ourselves considering mainstream public education as our last resort. Placing our son in a Year 7 class with over 35 children, despite his academic and emotional level being closer to Year 2, was a daunting prospect. Our paramount concern has always been providing him with the best possible environment—one that is nurturing and tailored to his individual requirements.

I am writing to express my profound disappointment regarding the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation. For many families like ours, homeschooling isn't simply a choice—it's a lifeline. It's an opportunity to create an environment where our children can flourish at their own pace, in a manner that honors their unique strengths and challenges.

I understand the need for regulation, but it pains me to see a focus on making homeschooling more rigid rather than addressing the root causes of why many children with disabilities struggle within mainstream educational settings. The truth is, traditional schools often lack the flexibility and personalized support necessary to accommodate the diverse needs of neurodivergent children.

Homeschooling isn't about isolating our children; it's about empowering them to learn and grow in an environment that celebrates their differences. By nurturing their individuality, we believe we're preparing them to become confident, capable members of society.

Instead of constraining families with more regulations, I implore the committee to consider alternative solutions. Let's work together to ensure that all children, regardless of their abilities, have access to a range of educational opportunities that cater to their unique needs and preferences. This includes advocating for greater resources and support for inclusive education practices within mainstream schools, alongside maintaining the option of homeschooling for those who require a more flexible approach.

In closing, I urge you to reflect on the profound impact your decisions will have on the lives of countless children and families. Let's strive to create a future where every child has the opportunity to thrive, regardless of the path they take in their educational journey.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,

Natasha Krelle

Homeschooling Parent of a 13 year old Child with Mutliple Disabilities

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