

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Dear Minister. We appreciate you hearing home educators in their voice towards the incoming Education bill. It is excellent that the Education minister is trying to fix the issues of mainstream schools, however homeschooling has been working the way it has for some time for a reason. Children who have struggled in mainstream seem to flourish in homeschool. Like my son. In mainstream, due to heavy bullying, he developed a strong social anxiety and the disposition for avoiding rejection and failure. This caused him to disconnect from learning in areas that he didn't understand or like. He went from an almost straight A student to a C and D student in a period of 12 months. He started to become depressed and verbally frustrated. The schools say they don't tolerate bullying but there is nothing they can do about it, because our of school suspensions are just a holiday for these kids now. In school suspension is just another school subject. Since discipline is lacking at home it is impossible for teachers at school. Something that stuck by me and helped me make my decision to homeschool was when my son came up to me one day and said, I Quote " the teachers pay more attention to the bad kids than those who need help.." it cut deep. My son was exceptional.. he was also neurodivergent waiting for testing for ASD. The start of home schooling was rough because of his disconnect to learning and fear of rejection and failure, but over time he started opening up to learning. I started to see him smile more, less dark and depressed, less verbally aggressive towards his younger brother. If they make homeschooling like mainstream what is the point? Teachers have gone to uni to get where they are. They have training, home educators do not. But yet the schooling structure that Home education has, works for alot of kids. It works for us. They are going to see more kids disconnect again from learning. "Scores" that they talk of will plummet. They will see an emotional shift for the worse not only in the children but the parents as well as they burn out from the load that is being forced onto them.. the HEU Department will struggle as well with the higher workload, which means more staff will need to be hired. I would hope that they are teachers to make sure the students are still getting the higher education they deserve from home schooling.. this is not a good thing to do for home educators, not a good thing for the children involved, and not a good thing for the HEU Department either. I mean I never finished school due to bullying.... And I'm a Vet Student student now ;) there are always pathways to get into uni and you don't need a high school certification to get there. Just higher learning. :)

Thank you for listening.. #free2homeschool