

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 407
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Submitter Comments:

I do not support this legislation with regards to 2 areas:1) Being required to implement ACARA:Why limit a child to a set approach when there are other equal or better curriculums on offer? There isn't only one way to achieve the end goal. Homeschooling allows the flexibility to choose the right path for the child when working with them individually. ACARA is relevant where one wants to provide consistent learning across schools in the country with multiple students in a class. This is not the case for homeschooling where parents work one on one with a child, which allows for tailoring learning to their learning style, their development level, strengths and weaknesses. I have a concern that being constrained to ACARA will adversely affect the educational approach and curriculum I am using and reduce their love of learning and progress.2) The requirement for parents to prove that home education is in the best interest of the child:How will that be determined? Will this result in additional costs to obtain medical reports, assessments? How will we ensure the medical professional isn't biased which incorrect preconceptions of homeschooling and is against homeschooling for anyone? This is a massive change in the legislation, to move away from stating a parent has the choice for the best educational path for their child. The parent knows their child the best and their view should take priority. I am not comfortable with the current wording and the vagueness of the statement, in particular, how it will be implemented.My son has been diagnosed with ADHD and ASD Level 2. After multiple suspensions, we left private school half way through Prep, moved to state school and were part of SEP where we lasted 2 years in until OSCH said they could not have him anymore and SEP wanted to keep him in the SEP room during breaks with unstructured play. It was causing unhealthy anxiety from his executive functioning delays, leading to aggressive outbursts, rejection from peers and then missing out on learning content at school. It was the failure of the school system and SEP support that was a major driver for opting for home education. Covid learning at home made me realise that homeschooling was something I could do to better support my son, to provide him the education he deserves without the constant negative feedback at school. Also, the wealth of learning material available on line and in print is amazing and enables a feast of learning. I decided to also homeschool my daughter because I love the curriculum we are using, I didn't want her to miss out on the rich content and books we use for learning. It also works better for us logistically so we can join extra curricular activities and not have to be interrupted with school runs. I am concerned that this legislation could make it difficult for me to homeschool my daughter who doesn't have medical reasons to be homeschooled. I am also concerned that the ACARA requirement will limit the implementation of the current curriculum I use because in some aspects the approach or timing of learning activities is different and the curriculum I use is better suited for my children. It will inevitably increase load on myself to find ways to meet both curriculum short term goals and could unnecessarily stress or confuse the children's learning experience. Please reconsider limiting home education to using ACARA which is designed for standardisation of schools.Thank you for your consideration.