

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 442
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Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Changes to Homeschooling Legislation

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed EDUCATION (GENERAL PROVISIONS) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024, with particular regard to homeschooling legislation.

I am not a homeschooling parent. I am a step-mother to a wonderful little boy who is in grade 3 and already attending his second public school, due to bullying and unresolved conflict at his first school; along with his struggles to keep up with the Australian National Curriculum. While I do not have any weight in deciding if my step son will remain in mainstream schooling or transition over to a homeschooling education, the negative impact that the school system has already had on him, has driven me to know that when my own son becomes of school age, I will be enrolling him into homeschooling. I do not feel that mainstream schooling can provide the diverse, nurturing, supportive, safe learning environment my son will need.

My step son is first hand proof that all children do not have the same learning abilities and as such, should not be held to the same standard as every other child, expected to learn in a one size fits all learning environment, along side the Australian National Curriculum. It is my strong belief that children learn in their own individual ways and to deprive them of this option of learning, is to do them a great disservice. To be afforded the opportunity to thrive in a homeschool environment, following an individualised, supportive learning plan, delivered by a parent who has their best interests at heart, is undeniably a much higher quality of education than any school could ever offer. A school will never be able to offer my child the one-on-one attention I can give him at home.

I am aware that the Australian National Curriculum is available to all who wish to access it and yet 80% of all homeschooling registrations do not utilise it. You need to ask yourselves why that is? Just because it is the "standard" of education, does not make it superior. If it were the superior learning model, all homeschooling parents would be utilising it as they all want the best education possible for their children.

In closing, I would like to urge you to put aside any pre misconceptions you may have about homeschooling and really listen to the concerns of the homeschooling community. No body knows the needs of these children, better than their own parents. I do not support this bill!

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Jessica Ramsey
(Concerned Community Member)

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