

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 542
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Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members, As someone deeply invested in the education of my child, I've made the conscious choice to homeschool, recognising that the mainstream educational system may not always suit or, in some cases, can even harm children. Over the years, I've had the privilege of homeschooling my 12 year old son, with his unique learning styles, interests, and needs. These experiences have provided me with invaluable insights into the challenges and opportunities of homeschooling. I firmly believe that without lived experience, it's challenging to fully grasp the intricacies of homeschooling and to understand what legislative measures are truly needed to ensure homeschooled children receive a quality education. It's not merely about enforcing rigid curriculum requirements but rather about fostering an environment that empowers parents to provide personalised, holistic education tailored to their children's individual needs and aspirations. While the Australian curriculum may be presented as a superior option, it's essential to acknowledge that it's just one of many possibilities. For some children, it may indeed be adequate, but for others, it may not align with their learning preferences or life goals. This underscores the importance of offering diverse schooling options and supporting parents in making informed decisions about their children's education. In conclusion, I urge the committee to approach homeschooling legislation with a deep appreciation for the lived experiences of homeschooling families and a commitment to ensuring that all children have access to a quality education that meets their unique needs. By listening to the voices of homeschooling parents and advocating for policies that promote flexibility, autonomy, and inclusivity, we can create a more equitable and responsive educational system for all. Thank you for considering my perspective. Sincerely, Sally Dair