

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 666
Submitted by: Jessica Halim
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members, I am writing to you because I disagree with some of the ideas in the Inquiry into Education 2024. My cousin is homeschooled. He is 12 years old and has never attended mainstream school. He is an amazing child. He's so clever academically, he excels at social interactions and he is so emotionally intelligent. He has an amazing imagination and is very creative. He has worked very hard with his parents (my aunty and uncle) to not let his severe dyslexia and dysgraphia limit his education. Being forced to follow the national curriculum would restrict his education in a negative way, compared to what my aunty and uncle provide already. In fact, it would severely limit the fabulous education they provide him. I think this is true for all homeschool families. I've seen my cousin amongst his homeschooled friends and they are such well-adjusted, lovely children with parents who facilitate amazing educational opportunities for them. I'm not sure yet how I'll educate my future children, but if I start them in mainstream education and then choose to move to homeschooling, I think it is only fair that I would be given 60 days to plan their educational pathway for the year. If any parents withdraw their children from school, they deserve a bit of time to adapt and plan what is best for their child. I also don't think the phrase 'in the best interests of the child' should be used when choosing between mainstream schooling or homeschooling. Homeschool families take the educational journeys of their children very seriously, of course they are acting in the best interests of their children. Please listen to the parents of the homeschool community before finalising these changes. They are a very committed, well informed group of parents who deserve to be listened to before changes are made that will affect their children's education. Kind regards, Jessica Halim