

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 706
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Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members, As a homeschooling parent of two children with several disabilities, I am deeply disappointed by the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation. For many children with disabilities and neurodivergence, homeschooling is not just a choice but a necessity—an opportunity to create an environment where they can thrive at their own pace and in their unique way. My own two boys have ASD and sensory processing disorder. The thought of school is overwhelming. The thought of turning home into school is also overwhelming! I prefer to learn at their own pace and cater to their needs instead of keeping up with an external demand. It is disheartening to see a focus on making homeschooling more rigid rather than addressing the systemic barriers that prevent many children with disabilities from accessing quality education in mainstream schools. Instead of imposing restrictive measures on homeschooling families, the committee's efforts would be better directed toward making mainstream schools more accessible and inclusive for all students, regardless of their abilities or differences. At home, I can offer my boys the dedicated time and care that they need to thrive. I can weave their therapy into our day, and I can be in tune with their needs. A school environment, adhering to the strict delivery of the Australian Curriculum can not provide this for my children. They are too concerned with standardised testing and NAPLAN to truly understand the needs of the individual child when the child has sensory challenges and Autism.

Rather than limiting the options available to families, we should be working to ensure that all children have access to a range of educational opportunities that meet their individual needs and preferences. This includes advocating for greater resources and support for inclusive education practices within mainstream schools, as well as providing alternative options like homeschooling for those who require a more tailored approach. In conclusion, I urge the committee to reconsider its approach to homeschooling legislation and to prioritize the needs of children with disabilities and neurodivergence, like my two boys. Thank you for considering my perspective. Sincerely, Coralie Cooper
Homeschooling mother and advocate