

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 733

Submitted by: Catherine Spencer

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Submitter Comments:

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Changes to homeschool
Date: Sunday, 17 March 2024 8:10:05 PM

>
> Catherine Spencer
> [REDACTED]
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> To members of Parliament,
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> I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent education legislation changes that have been proposed in our state. As a constituent and a member of the community, I believe it is crucial to voice my apprehensions about the potential impact of these changes on our education system.
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> My name is Catherine, I have three degrees ranging from a Bachelor of Exercise Science, Education and a Masters of Sports Coaching. My three children have been engaged in homeschooling for the past 5 years.
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> My oldest has completed a certificate II and III in Animal Studies and is now at university doing Vet Nursing. My middle son who is 15, is homeschooling while completing a certificate III in food service through the Mc Donald TAFE at school pathway. He studies English, Mathematics and a Science of choice.
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> My youngest daughter is thriving in her own way and loves life. What I need to remind you all is that my oldest is diagnosed ASD, Anxiety and Self Harm. My son, has Tourettes, slow auditory processing skills, ADHD- but is actually in the 95 th percentile for intelligence.
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> To bring it all into perseverance my youngest is ASD level 2, intellectual and learning disability with speech and language delay. She also struggles to toilet. She speaks, she reads, we can toilet appropriately.
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> The proposed legislation raises several pressing concerns that I believe need to be addressed. Firstly, bullying on such teens cannot and will not be monitored at main stream school. There is not enough funding to address all the needs of students. This posses a threat to students as they are put into situations of harm.
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> Secondly, to propose that parents need to justify why homeschooling is in the best interests of the child, are we then going to use resources to interview all school- ages children and their parents and ask them to justify why a school system is in their best interest?
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> The curriculum is overloaded currently and teachers are stressed. They are spending more time with paperwork then engaging and enriching young minds. Through homeschooling we as the parents can produce a learning environment that encourages real work learnig.
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> Moreover, I am worried about the lack of transparency and public consultation surrounding these changes. As a stakeholder in our education system, I believe it is imperative for the voices of educators, parents, students, and community members to be heard and considered in any decision-making process that impacts our schools.
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> In light of these concerns, I urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed education legislation and to prioritize the best interests of our students, teachers, and schools. I implore you to advocate for a more inclusive and collaborative approach to policymaking that values input from all stakeholders and ensures the integrity and quality of our education system.
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> Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for considering my concerns. I look forward to your response and to further dialogue on this important issue.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> Cath Spencer
[REDACTED]