

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 778
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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20th March 2024

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to emphasise the importance of understanding and supporting the diverse learning needs of children, particularly those who thrive in non-traditional educational environments, such as homeschooling. As a homeschooling parent deeply committed to my children's educational journey, I urge the committee to consider the detrimental impact of forcing children back into environments that do not suit their learning needs.

The committee needs to recognise that not all children will thrive in school. Instead of penalising these families, maybe it would be more inclusive and kinder to offer support? Instead of asking that we jump through more hoops, maybe consult with the home school community a little deeper and understand how many families are dealing with disabilities, school refusal, and medical needs that make school impossible.

For many homeschooling families, including mine, the decision to homeschool stems from a desire to provide our children with an educational experience that respects their individual interests, strengths, and aspirations. Homeschooling allows our children to pursue their passions, delve deeply into subjects that captivate their curiosity, and develop the skills necessary to succeed in their chosen paths. A lot of families don't choose this path, because it comes with challenges, like decreased income and stigma. But for a lot of families, including mine, the desire to see your children thrive helps you make the tough choices.

My own schooling experience showed me that not all children thrive in the school system. I have one child with dyslexia, and he would have struggled to keep up with the pace of the school timetable. Instead of falling behind and being lost, we can teach him at his level. This one-on-one tuition means that he retains the information and is excelling, instead of being disheartened by the overwhelming school environment.

This child would also need many accommodations in a school environment. He would need to live on heavy pain medication, with side effects, to last a six-hour day. He would not have time to complete his daily therapy or attend all of his therapy appointments. Because of homeschooling, we can get his learning completed around his schedule for therapy and appointments. Instead of making it harder to homeschool,

I implore the committee to take the time to speak directly with homeschooling families and to listen to their insights and experiences. By understanding the diverse motivations and approaches within the homeschooling community, we can work together to create policies that support children's individual learning needs and ensure that every child has the opportunity to succeed.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Bachelor of Health Science and Homeschooling parent

*Please do not publish identifying details!