

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 786
Submitted by: Renee Worthington
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I disagree with the amendments proposed. Firstly, the amendment to prove homeschooling is in a child's best interest. Currently it is a parents right to choose the method of their child's education and this may be for many reasons. These reasons may include struggles with traditional schooling for a variety of reasons or simply family preference. This will take away a parents right to decide for their child. In addition, who is to decide this? It appears it is left open to the personal opinion of whomever may be approving the application and this is unacceptable. Second, many children struggle for many reasons in a traditional school setting, including but not limited to issues with bullying or being neurodivergent. Taking away the provisional registration leaves parents facing the choice between forcing their children to attend an institution that is causing their child to be traumatised or facing legal action for removing their child while waiting for their application to be approved. Again, this is unacceptable. Third, why is there a need to follow and report to the National curriculum? As I have started, there are many reasons parents choose to homeschool - which is currently their right. Distance education offers the option to school a child from their home while following the National curriculum. A homeschooling parent may choose to follow the curriculum but they may not. Neurodivergent children struggle greatly and need accommodations made. Parents who have the right to choose the method of their child's education should also have the right to choose what curriculum they educate their children with. There are many, many options available, as well as choosing to educate from a selection of them at the same time. Finally, I would like to point out that the rate of families choosing to home educate their children is growing faster than ever before. This should be an indicator to the government that the current model of traditional schooling, which is a one size fits all model, does not work for a large percentage of the population that they govern. When schools can not meet the needs of our children, or when a parent chooses to do so for whatever reason, homeschooling is a wonderful option that works for many, many families. For the families that try it and don't like, they are able to return to school.