

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee, I am a 12 year old Home school-er, this has not always been the case. I started my educational journey at a private school, but I was miserable and was not learning anything because the teacher did not acknowledge my learning needs. In year 1 I attended a State school and was happy, although I was still getting further and further behind my peers as it became more obvious that I had a learning disability. As I progressed through the primary years my reading and writing inabilities were starting to affect every aspect of my learning. I went from top of the class in maths to mid range because if you cannot read the question, you cannot do the sums. In year 2 I did tutoring alongside my school days and then in year three I started an intensive cognitive program. By year 4 we had lock downs and my Mum became aware that even with a diagnosis from a psychologist my class room teachers were not making any allowances for my disability. When she looked at the work she knew I could not do it, so we focused a lot of our time on my cognitive exercises and my Mum a qualified teacher adapted my school work for me. I was lucky that my mum could help me, however I know many children are not as lucky as me. My mum is qualified and educated not just as a teacher but in neurology and the developing brain. This was when we decided it was best I continue to learn from home and not return to school as my peers did. Contrary to the opinions of those not informed about home education, I have worked very hard while Home schooled and I have caught up with my reading and made progress with my writing. If I had stayed at school this never would have happened. Last year I returned to school at a small independent school with small classes. I really enjoyed my time in the Primary school, because this wasn't at all like school. However now I have started year 7 I am returning to home education. I cannot learn in an environment where children are talking and teachers get annoyed because I keep asking what we are doing because I can not concentrate on the instructions when there is other noise. I also find it distressing that a student in the class screams randomly. I also do not like the way my peers talk and behave rudely towards the teachers. I much prefer to just do my work and then socialise outside of my work time. Today I did my Maths and Science tests and got an A and A- respectively. I also did an English and Maths test for my Distance Education application and got in the 80th percentile for Maths and 93rd for English. All this from a student whom in year 4 was reading at 2 and a half years below their reading level and maths was dropping from having been an A student quickly towards a C. If my mum had not taken me out of the system and had tried to tick the boxes of the Australian Curriculum I would not be where I am today, in fact its most likely I would be reading at around 4 years below year level. I know home education is in my best interests, I have demonstrated that. However if you make all these changes, who will decided what is in my best interest? How can some one like me ever catch up if you make us try to learn things that mean nothing to us because we cannot read or write, we cant even show you what we know. I still need to work on both my reading and writing, however with support I can produce work of a high standard. Schools do not give me the support I need, they do not provide absolute quiet so I can concentrate. I am not seen as in need enough to have a scribe or someone to read questions for me. At school I would be excluded from an education because without support I cannot keep up. At home my mum makes sure I am keeping up whilst we keep working on my reading and writing. I am begging you to not implement the changes that are being put before you. Thank you