

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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To the Committee members,

I am strongly opposed to the legislative changes proposed for the Education Bill 2024.

My grandchildren have been home-schooled their whole lives and they are now 18 and 14 years old. Their parents are both university-educated and take their role as home educators very seriously. The children are constantly surprising us with their depth of knowledge, and ability to interact with people from all walks of life. Their maturity outweighs any of our other grandchildren who attended public and private schooling (we have 15 grandchildren). The most significant difference between our homeschooled grandchildren and our schooled grandchildren is the thirst for knowledge and the drive to be a self-starter. The eldest is heading to University next year- this is due to his home schooling because he would have had different outcomes if he hadn't had the nurturing, individualised tuition that homeschooling provided.

It is essential to recognize that homeschooling families do not seek to replicate the traditional school system at home. Rather, they embrace the opportunity to provide a personalised, holistic education that aligns with their children's unique needs, interests, and learning styles. This approach fosters a love of learning, encourages critical thinking, and nurtures individual talents and passions. One grandchild has thrived with outdoor education and is now in a job with vast responsibilities for his age. Our other grandchild has a deep love of fishing, and his mother builds a lot of his learning curriculum around that love – teaching science, geography, math, and more.

The imposition of rigid regulations and standardised requirements would only serve to stifle the flexibility and creativity that are the hallmarks of homeschooling. Instead of focusing on excessive regulation, I urge the committee to support policies that empower homeschooling parents. By fostering a supportive environment that values parental expertise and encourages innovation, we can ensure that all children have access to a high-quality education that prepares them for success in the 21st century.

Regards



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