

## Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 836  
**Submitted by:** Melissa Cainero  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** See attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

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.

For many homeschooling families, including mine, the decision to homeschool stems from a desire to provide our children with an educational experience that honours 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.

My 13-year-old daughter is severely dyslexic and she would not be able to thrive in a school system with all of the busy work, crammed curriculum, and noisy classrooms. With homeschooling, I can teach her the way that she best learns, I can go over content that hasn't been absorbed yet and I can have our focus on English because it is what she needs the most. Homeschooling also allows me to help my children shine in their areas of interest and help them build confidence in their skill sets. Currently, my daughter is teaching a crochet class weekly to a home-school co-op. This is giving her valuable teaching skills, and giving her a sense of achievement.

By following their own learning interests and setting goals tailored to their personal futures, homeschooled children are empowered to take ownership of their education and chart a course that aligns with their unique talents and ambitions. This personalised approach fosters a sense of agency and self-efficacy that is often lacking in traditional school settings, where children may feel constrained by rigid structures and standardised expectations.

As a homeschooling parent, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact of this approach on my children's academic success, personal development, and overall well-being. Rather than seeing children fail, homeschooling offers a lifeline—a chance to thrive in environments that nurture their individuality and potential.

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,

Melissa Cainero