

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 845
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Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members, I am writing to you because I disagree with some of the ideas in the Inquiry into Education 2024. My 12 year old nephew is homeschooled and has never attended mainstream school. He is an amazing child. He's really clever academically, and he is so emotionally intelligent, creative and imaginative. He and his parents (my sister and brother-in-law) have worked very hard to not let his severe dyslexia and dysgraphia limit his education. Being restricted to following only the national curriculum would limit his education in such a negative way, compared to how my sister and brother-in-law currently educate him. It would severely limit the fabulous education they provide him. Homeschool parents facilitate amazing educational opportunities for their children and should be allowed the freedom to utilise any curriculum they choose. Also, if families begin with mainstream education and then choose to move to homeschooling, it is only fair that they be given 60 days to plan their educational pathway for the year. If any parents withdraw their children from school, it is not a decision that is made lightly on a whim. It is because it will be best for the academic, social and emotional needs of their child. Parents deserve some time to adapt and plan for what is best for their child when starting their homeschool journey. I also don't agree with the phrase 'in the best interests of the child' being used when choosing between mainstream schooling or homeschooling. Homeschool families take the education of their children very seriously, often with personal sacrifices such as interrupted career paths. Of course they are already acting in the best interests of their children. Please listen to the parents of the homeschool community and those connected to them before making these changes. They are a very committed, well informed community who deserve to be listened to before changes are made that will affect their children's education and their lives. Kind regards, Michelle Gale