Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 923

Submitted by:

Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name

Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

From:

Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee To

Subject: Date:

Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Changes to Homeschooling Legislation

Tuesday, 19 March 2024 4:28:46 PM

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Dear Committee Members.

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed changes in homeschooling legislation, particularly the requirement to follow a specific curriculum. As homeschooling parents, we firmly believe that these changes would undermine the very reasons why many families, including our own, have chosen homeschooling as the mode of education for our children.

We would like to share our experience as homeschooling parents and to emphasize the invaluable learning opportunities that homeschooling has provided for our children. In light of the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation, I believe it's crucial to highlight the positive impact that homeschooling has had on our children's love for learning and their preparation for the real world.

Since embarking on our homeschooling journey, we have witnessed a remarkable transformation in my children's attitude towards education. The personalized learning approach we have adopted has reignited their passion for learning and instilled in them a newfound confidence in their abilities. Rather than merely memorizing facts and figures, they are actively engaged in exploring topics that spark their curiosity and pursuing knowledge in a way that resonates with them personally.

It is worth noting that, upon initially examining the current Queensland curriculum, we found that it did not align with our educational philosophy. Within just two weeks of attempting to follow it, we realized that the high-quality learning experiences we could provide at home far surpassed what was being offered within the confines of a traditional curriculum. The ACARA curriculum is not in the best interests of the children & with a background in education & friends with many collective years experience within education systems - we all agree it is basically just alot of words and numbers to look like it accomplishes something when in fact it does not deliver. We are also not teachers who have gone to university and studied this. Same goes with the Senior Syllabus - these are appropriate for teachers trained in the university system not for parents delivering tailored one to one programs.

Through homeschooling, our children are not only acquiring academic knowledge but also developing essential life skills and values that are essential for success in the real world. They are learning how to think critically, communicate effectively, develop & practice emotional safety, contribute & be involved in their community and adapt to new situations—all skills that will serve them well beyond the confines of a classroom. We felt these skills were not being fostered and built upon at school, our children were not physically safe even though they are 4 years apart they BOTH had the same experience of violence being committed to them, bullying, having to leave the classroom mid lesson for up to an hour at a time while children had violent, uncontrollable outbursts and repeatedly we were told that the school could do nothing about it because the other child had "difficulties". So we decided that the only way our children could actually BE safe and learn without disruption was to learn from home.

Moreover, homeschooling allows our children to actively participate in the world around them, gaining practical experience and insight that simply cannot be replicated in a traditional school setting. Whether it's volunteering in the community, pursuing hobbies and interests, or engaging in real-world projects, they are actively preparing for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Our family & friends have witnessed this incredible change within our children and wholeheartedly support us educating our children the way we are. We are their parents, and we know them better than anyone. How amazing this world would be if every child had parents, guardians & families that advocated for their individual best interests and encouraged them to pursue their dreams and passions. Think just for yourself what that could have looked like. We are

proud of our choice, responsibility & right to educate and prepare the children we brought into this world.

In conclusion, we urge the committee to recognize and celebrate the diverse benefits of homeschooling, which go beyond mere academic achievement. As home-schooling parents, we are deeply grateful for the opportunity to nurture our children's love of learning and to prepare them for the complexities of the real world through personalized, holistic education. And we will always advocate for what is in their best interests, all day, every day.

Thank you for considering our perspective.

Regards,

Homeschooling Parents.