

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by: Skye Watt
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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Changes to Homeschooling Legislation
Date: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 5:57:32 PM

Dear Committee Members,

As someone deeply invested in the education of my children, I've made the conscious choice to homeschool, after recognizing that the mainstream educational system may not always suit or, in some cases, can even harm children. Over the years, I've had the privilege of homeschooling 3 children, each with their unique learning styles, interests, and needs. These experiences have provided me with invaluable insights into the challenges and opportunities of homeschooling

I firmly believe that without lived experience, it's challenging to fully grasp the intricacies of homeschooling and to understand what legislative measures are truly needed to ensure homeschooled children receive a quality education. It's not merely about enforcing rigid curriculum requirements but rather about fostering an environment that empowers us parents to provide personalized, education tailored to their children's individual needs and aspirations.

While the Australian curriculum may be presented as a superior option, it's essential to acknowledge that it's just one of many possibilities. For some children, it may indeed be adequate, but for others, it may not align with their learning preferences or life goals. This underscores the importance of offering diverse schooling options and supporting parents in making informed decisions about their children's education.

I as a parent can say that the best thing that I ever done for my children were to remove them from the school system, whilst my son was attending school in year two, I was having a discussion with his teacher, she communicated how well he was working in class and how much he contributed - I thought this statement of my son was very abnormal due to his quiet nature with in the classroom for the two years previous to moving into this class.

The time approached for the parent teacher interview and I meet with the teacher who proceeded to tell me not even 3 weeks later that my son was and quote "just a number in her classroom, he

does not talk, interact with the classroom curriculum and he just sits there and will not complete any work”, I proceeded to ask questions to her about my son and she was not able answer them - so please explain to me how being in a school following a curriculum is the best for every child?

Since the departure of the school system my son is not succeeding, he is speaking to other people, he has matured into an marvellous human who is self-assured in many parts of learning, has absolutely got his own learning style, he may have additional needs and is definitely not where he should be academically BUT he gives his all, he completes the work set out for him and he is progressing more and more each and every day, all the transformations have come from him since we commenced home education and the amount of one on one time he is able to receive.

I also do not believe we as parents should have to demonstrate that homeschooling is in the best interest of OUR children, we as parents recognize what is paramount for our children, we will always put OUR children and their needs first no matter if it's through a mainstream school or if it is via homeschooling.

As a parent to 3 children, one of them who attended mainstream schooling but did attempt to home school for a year broken up over two years, she choose to complete her schooling as it was the best thing for her and her education, so having a seat on both sides about being able to pick what is best for my children should come down to the parents due to them understanding their children better than anyone.

Again, being deeply invested in the education of not only my own children but others who are just starting out I do not believe that the no provisional registration should be removed.

Have you ever just had a time where everything is not going right? Where your children are not happy? That they come home and cry about being bullied, hurt, ect? Or even you have moved, and you can't find a school that is right for your child, so you decided to homeschool? Or like me your children have additional needs, but they would be lost in the system, either a mainstream or special education school?

This is where the provisional registration comes in, having those 60 days to help decide about what is best for their children, working out the best way to home educate ones child is not as black and white as your trying to make it out, its time consuming, its hard and takes research to

come up with what is best for a child/ren, by having these 60 days it helps remove the stress to some parents who have had to make changes on the run, who have not had a huge amount of time to think through and pre plan like some may be able to do.

Please do not remove the rights of having the provisional registration from those who need it.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to approach homeschooling legislation with a deep appreciation for the lived experiences of homeschooling families and a commitment to ensuring that all children have access to a quality education that meets their unique needs. By listening to the voices of homeschooling parents and advocating for policies that promote flexibility, autonomy, and inclusivity, we can create a more equitable and responsive educational system for all.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,

Skye Watt

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