

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 937
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Publication:
Attachments: No attachment
Submitter Comments:

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee; Jodie Skelton](#)
Subject: EGPA submission
Date: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 11:05:13 PM

Dear Committee members,

I reject the following proposals in the EGPA bill.

1. A guiding principle that states homeschooling must be in the best interest of the child
2. Defining a high-quality education as aligning to the national curriculum and thus extending reporting requirements across all subjects
3. Removing provisional registration and allocated time to create a high-quality learning plan

I am surrounded by homeschoolers in my day to day life, I run a large homeschool co-op and I'm squeezing this submission in before heading out to a homeschool swimming carnival tomorrow morning, that I'm helping organize for the community.

I see these homeschool kids learning very day. Many of them are neuro diverse, suffering school trauma and just really don't belong in a classroom. I'm supporting their parents with a shoulder to cry on, a place to find friends for their kids, and by offering learning experiences that enrich and build character.

Most of what we offer would not tick the national curriculum box, but that doesn't make it less valuable. This term our group offered a Bronze Medallion to our teens, music classes to our juniors and script writing and performing to all. We didn't look to ACARA for inspiration, we looked to the children and their parents. We asked them what they wanted to learn and that's what we organized. Last term it was whittling, a skill society is fast losing because of this required curriculum. The term before it was finances and budgeting. A skill more useful than any of the math in the national curriculum. This bill removes the freedom from parents to design an education to meet their children's and community's needs.

Furthermore, parents have the already large task of educating their children. They do not need a heavier burden of reporting than is already expected. This bill suggests reporting educational progress on all subjects will now be required. This is a time-consuming task, not in the best interest of the children being educated in any way.

Removing provisional registration is a problem in that the safety of children needs to come above their educational needs. The implication of this bill is that children would need to stay in school while parents formulate a plan aligning to acara. This is a dangerous and short-sighted suggestion. Children often leave school in a hurry, for their own safety. They need to be able to do this. Schools are not safe places for all children.

The guiding principle is worrying in that it doesn't identify who is responsible for determining the child's best interest. What proof will be required? I feel that this is governmental overreach at the very minimum. Will parents who send their

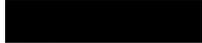
children to school have to prove that is in their best interests, when there are so many children suffering from school trauma. If it is only the homeschooling community, you are discriminating against our choice to educate our children in a valid and meaningful way.

I am a professional woman choosing to home educate my child rather than pursue my career. My qualifications are below, and I use them to show that as a tertiary educated woman, with many career options, I have made a deliberate and calculated decision that this is the best use of my time. I don't believe that my qualifications prove that I can home educate, as parents we are the best placed to know what our children need irrespective of a piece of paper.

In closing, I hope that you ensure that all the hundreds and thousands of submissions like mine from the homeschooling community are given additional weight given they have lived and experienced homeschooling.

Kind regards,

Jodie Fraumano



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