

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Bernadette Lavalley-Bohl

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I am writing in regards to the proposed Bill brought forward by Di Farmer. I know you will have received quite a few of these emails, so I will try and be brief and to the point with my concerns and my point of view.

1. I worry what the stress the proposed changes will be causing many families. Some of these children, who are old enough to understand what is happening, left the public schooling sector due to bullying or struggling to keep up with their peers because they learn in their own unique way. The emotional and mental damage with the thought of having to return to that atmosphere will be crippling for some, a stress that is not necessary and may have catastrophic results for some families.
2. If it isn't broken, don't fix it. Do these changes really need to happen? Where is the evidence that children who do their schooling at home and don't follow the curriculum do worse than those who are part of the main stream education system? I think we all know the evidence in studies done in previous years is proof enough that it is only of benefit. Also, if time was taken to directly speak to these families the evidence is pretty obvious.
3. In the instance of my husband and I, we chose to have a family. It was a mutual decision between the 2 of us. I don't recall ever getting any Government agencies involved in that

decision. So why, now, should we have anyone else but my husband and myself have a say in how our children are raised and how we choose to educate them? The Government has no place in our family. No one knows our children better than us. We alone are responsible for their well-being and we alone have to live with the consequences of those decisions. All anyone wants is the best and if we know that is educating from home and via a method that is tailored to our children, then that's what we are going to do.

4. I myself was failed by the education system. I gave up by high school thinking I was stupid. In reality I just needed a different environment and learning method. Someone standing at the front of a classroom speaking words and expecting me to keep up and stay focused was not how I learned. I am a hands-on learner. So sitting there watching everyone else understand what was expected and start getting the work done while I was left confused caused me to have low self-esteem. I was bullied, not just by students but by some teachers too as they assumed I just "wasn't paying attention".

I know my oldest daughter is the same as me. She needs one on one attention, small bouts of learning and it needs to be fun to keep her focused.

5. When you buy a new car, tv, power tool or even a dog, you do your research do you not? Yet we are expected to send our children off to spend the majority of their waking hours with a complete stranger. One who will be instilling their morals and principals into them, not ours. I had children for ME, not so I could send them off to be raised by a total stranger.

6. Home schooled children do not miss out on anything. Social media affords the opportunity to connect like never before. In

our community our children enjoy excursions, weekly park plays, the chance to put on a performance on stage at the local hall, art classes, foreign language classes, book week, sports and swimming lessons.

7. You can't expect all children to fit into the same box. Every child is UNIQUE. They need to be treated as such. There is no one-size-fits-all method for learning. Not everyone is interested in the same subjects. Maths and English should be compulsory, anything outside of that should come down to personal interests.

I firmly believe that these proposed changes will be at the detriment of many children and parents. Home-schooling is not an easy way out. We are taking the harder route to help get our children the education they deserve.

I thank you for your time and hope that the evidential studies will be considered, every individual story listened to without bias and perhaps some one on one conversations with home-schooling families conducted.

Kind regards,

Bernadette Lavalley-Bohl