

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1045
Submitted by: Samantha Langley
Publication:
Attachments: No attachment
Submitter Comments:

For the attention of the committee
Submission

Thank you to the committee for taking the time to read our submissions to you. The home schooling community has been highly anxious and worried due to the proposed bill so I wanted to give you an idea of what home education looks like from someone who has home educated their children for the last 8 years, that's 23 plans and reports, 8 years of home and group classes, friendships cultivated and grown and deep interests supported.

How did I end up being a homeschool parent? I had a young boy with a language delay and a diagnosis of ASD. I was promised he would be looked after and his education journey would be a great experience. I knew in the first week that his needs could not be met. We changed schools. He was never an issue, each school we tried he was well loved but his sensory issues were just not taken care of. He was left behind over a period of two years and just put into the too hard basket. The teachers loved him but they didn't teach him. When I had had enough I took him out of school. By this time my lovely son had been bullied, was feeling sick every day and was not the happy and confident child I had entrusted to the school system years before. He left school at 8 years old unable to read or write, he had only been given a few readers in his time even though I had asked. I had had enough. I researched curriculum and bought the whole of Jolly phonics and Jolly grammar teacher manuals and the whole set of readers, it cost me so much money but it was now a priority. I bought all the way to year 6/7 . **I had him reading and writing to his age level in six months.** I bought the curriculum Math U See all the way to year 9, a mastery system that uses manipulatives as a visual.

You may or may not understand since you wish to stream line all education into a one size fits all approach, that people are different in how they learn and retain information. It is not a one size fits all society and my son is a visual learner, he needs to feel and see to understand. Once he understands there is no stopping him. He is extremely bright and clever as are his brother and sister. Fast forward eight years, I have a young man who is a brilliant conversationalist, confident and strong, representing his tennis club in weekly competitions and personal tournaments, someone who has dear friends and is part of the community, someone eager to work, respectful to all and working towards his chosen career though industry level software a school could not provide alongside learning our own education plan . I do not support the bill as we all learn differently and as home educating parents it is our most important desire that our children love to learn and learn to their unique style. True learning is meaningful otherwise it is forgotten. We learn when we understand and feel confident in our subject, our passion for the subject can set up a whole future of joyful work which benefits society.

Please reconsider the bill for all the children out there that need an alternative to what school can provide. It is so important to embrace our uniqueness and learning styles. Teachers cannot support this so we do it and we do it 100% every day. It is not the easy option. We are a minority, often ignored and painted in a bad light. Di Farmer has 1.6 K comments on her facebook page from wonderful parents from all backgrounds. We network and support each other, we are a true community . We do this to support our children's dreams and to create a stable and healthy society with workers who are as passionate about their careers as you are about yours.

I hope you will read our submissions and take what we say on board. We are passionate about our children and helping them to reach their true potential and choice of curriculum to meet learning styles needs to stay not forced into a one size fits all.

With kind regards.