

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1104
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Attachments:
Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes in home schooling legislation, particularly the requirement to follow a specific curriculum.

As a grandparent to home schooled children I believe that these changes would undermine the very reason why many families, including mine, have chosen homeschooling as the preferred mode of education for their children.

I understand that the proposed changes primarily focus on mandating adherence to a standardised curriculum without delving into the underlying reason why many families choose homeschooling in the first place.

It appears that there has been little consultation carried out with the homeschooling community. Families often choose this method for their children for many reasons such as religious beliefs, specialised learning for children with disabilities and diverse needs.

Many of the parents I have heard from that homeschool their children is to keep their children safe and protect them from bullying and harassment. The Curriculum at a school cannot protect them from this. Both my children were victims of bullying, harassment and discrimination and the effect still lingers. Children and indeed adults learn better when they feel safe and free to be. A child living in fear of the playground or the classroom will not learn.

I agree that reading, writing and maths are important skills but apart from these the skills that my children have needed and use in daily life as members of the community came, in majority, from life experience not a school curriculum. And I would suspect that this is the case in a large number of people.

Enforcing a standardised curriculum fails to recognise the diverse interest and talents of homeschooling students. It overlooks the fact that every child is unique and may thrive in different subject areas or learning environments. By imposing rigid education requirements we risk depriving our children of the opportunity to pursue their passions and develop their full potential.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.