

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1106
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name

Attachments:

Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee members. I do not agree to the proposed changes in home education legislation. I oppose the proposed legislation bill for the following reasons, oDefining high-quality education as the National School Curriculum. Limiting our ability to provide a highly personalised education. oChild safety is not the role of the Home Education Unit to monitor. That's the Department of child safety's responsibly. oUnreasonable, extensive increase in reporting expectation. oRemoval of 60-day Provisional registration, Parents need time to create an annual plan when leaving the school system, provisional registration provides safety for families suffering school trauma.oRemoval of HEU certificate of registration, which diminishes formal recognition.

oThe removal of gendered language from the curriculum. I am extremely concerned about,oSomeone else determining whether my child is eligible for home education? oWhy does this person get to over-rule my parental rights? oHow would this assessment to determine eligibility be performed? olIncreased reporting requirements adding unnecessary stress, pressure and taking up my valuable time.oWhy would I not value my child's future enough to give them a high-quality education, unrestricted by the National School Curriculum? HEU already oversee my plan and yearly reporting. oNot all children understand the same way or progress at the same speed, many children struggle with learning and environmental difficulties which the National Curriculum does not satisfactorily allow for.I urge the committee to examine the current state of schools and the curriculum itself. It's essential to address the underlying reasons why families are turning to home education.In the home education environment, the focus is on meeting individual needs and fostering a love for learning. It is disheartening to think that we would sacrifice this extremely personalised approach in favour of a one-size-fits-all curriculum that simply does not work with all children.Parents know our children better than anyone else, and we are committed to doing what's best for their education and well-being. Imposing restrictions on home educating families only serves to undermine our autonomy and fails to address the root causes of dissatisfaction with the traditional school system.After trying mainstream school, I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to provide my children with an education tailored to their unique needs and interests, which was not adequately met within the school system.As a parent of an assessed neurodivergent son, we have spent countless hours consulting with specialists and allied health experts to determine how to best support our child. Unfortunately, what my child required was just not able to be achieved in a school environment.By the end of year 2, my child had reached crisis point. The curriculum had well and truly surpassed him. He'd spend non-school hours panicking about the next school day. Severely distressed by the curriculum with its unrelenting pressure, which he could not grasp in the allocated time frame. And a class environment which completely overwhelmed his senses. He lost weight, became withdrawn and shut down.Concerning signs of stress were also starting to show in my prep child, from the curriculum pressure and chaotic class environment, along with witnessing what his brother was going through.Since registering with the HEU I have proudly observed so much progress in my children's academics, but more importantly – their mental health. I'm so proud of how far my children have come. No child can learn any curriculum when they spend their day overwhelmed. My children now spend their days feeling safe, learning in the company of their family and trusted adults who invest endless hours of their time sharing their knowledge. And amongst peers they feel safe and comfortable with. They are absolutely thriving, learning in a way that works for them.Removing the constraints of a designated, high-pressure, fast paced curriculum, has opened the doors to a high-quality, diverse

education for my children, one on one, tailored, no pressure, no time constraints, authentic, high-quality learning, that they enjoy and understand. With no shortage of resources or information available in any topic they choose. Home education provides a sanctuary for our children who despite all efforts, failed to thrive in a classroom. The personalised learning approach we have adopted is slowly rebuilding their confidence in their abilities. It's been a long road to mending the psychological damage, which we still travel, but we now spend our days learning at my children's pace, in a completely supportive, nurturing way, completely tailored to their understanding. I truly believe there is far more to gain from teaching until understanding is gained, unrestricted by time deadlines and age expectations, then pushing forwards only to keep with a state expectation governed by age. We are busy educating our children in a way that works for them, parents do not need the additional pressure of the proposed increased reporting. We already prove adequately; our children are learning with our current HEU requirements. Meanwhile my child's proof of learning was very questionable while in a state school. To request report of progress across 8 areas is completely unreasonable. Our decision to home educate was not made lightly and was absolutely necessary for the wellbeing of my children. We, as parents of our children have the right to choose how to best educate our children. We take the responsibility of providing a high-quality education very seriously and spend many hours planning and adapting engaging ways to learn. I urge the committee to recognise the value of individualised home education and to refrain from imposing unnecessary constraints on home educating families. Let us continue to nurture our children's passions and talents, providing them with the best possible education tailored to their unique needs and aspirations. Thank you for considering my perspective. Sincerely, Home Educating Parent and Advocate.