

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you with my concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the Education Bill that has recently been presented to parliament.

As a home educating parent, I do not support some of these changes that have been introduced and am worried about the impact that they will have on my family and the home-schooling community.

As a home-schooling parent of a child with disabilities, the decision to home school has become a necessity, not a choice. It is evident that a one size fits all approach does not effectively cater to the unique learning styles, interests, and abilities of every student.

Home schooling has given us the opportunity to create an environment where my daughter can thrive at her own pace, in her own unique way. My daughter is discovering new interests and lifelong life skills which will not only enable her to seek employment, but also prepare her for the real world.

My daughter faced many significant challenges in mainstream schooling, where rigid structures and standardized approaches were not able to accommodate her needs.

The essence of home schooling lies in the freedom it affords children to learn in a manner that aligns with their individual interests, abilities and learning styles. By imposing a mandated curriculum, these proposed changes will hinder their ability to pursue education in a way that best suits their needs.

Home schooling allows children to actively participate in the world around them, gaining practical life skills and insight that simply cannot be replicated in a traditional school setting. An example of this is my daughter volunteering at Meals on Wheels and delivering meals to the residents. This experience will help her prepare for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

I urge you to look beyond the academic achievements and celebrate the diverse benefits of homeschooling.

As a home-schooling parent, I am deeply grateful to nurture my child's education and prepare them for the challenges of the real world through a personalised and holistic education.

Thankyou for considering my perspective.

Sincerely

Renee Simpson