

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1262
Submitted by: Tanya Zollinger
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

As a previous private school, public school and home-schooling mother of 7 children I found that having a home based curriculum best suited to my children's learning styles, academic ability and interests was what worked best for a number of reasons. My home-schooling children were able to pursue their interests outside of the 9 to 3 timeframe, like being at the beach early morning for the procession of soldier crabs or getting into their written work when at their psychological best depending on whether they were morning or afternoon accomplisers, they could attend gem clubs, alternative lessons or extra curricular activities that were not confined to evenings or weekends. We socialised extensively with other home-schooling children that included cooking, games, language interests and exercises. The exposure to these families brought about robust discussions over the latest books they were reading, special interests and movies. The children met weekly for a number of years at different homes, taking turns at hosting. Some parents used distance Ed, Christian curriculum, natural learning or their own home based learning. One of my grand children are now home-schooling and she is way ahead of her peers in many ways. She attends a bush school, gymnastics, language lessons and a home-schooling curriculum. Another grand daughter with a chromosomal deletion is looking at being held back and will not be able to attend public school until she is 7 years of age as she will not meet the milestones needed for attendance. The need for home-schooling my grand daughter is becoming apparent with her disabilities. My children fear the bullying, overlooking and failure of their beautiful child if she attends a mainstream school. She does not have the ability to understand social cues and would be at risk of ridicule for her gait or speech and understanding. From my understanding and years of experience both in and out of the school system it is apparent that classroom set up and sizes, stress on teachers, narrow academic exposure and lack of life skills is so evident that the government should be considering alternative education practices as a God send. The government school system may be best suited to children who might somehow thrive where strengths can be overlooked, weaknesses ignored or ridiculed, bullying unpunished and where learning, sporting, reading and writing difficulties are unable to be addressed. Some of my children were severely bullied, their learning style unaccounted for and their neurodivergency ignored while their emotional decline lead a number of them unable to complete school to year 12. The committee should be considering an overhaul of a system that harms more than it guides to success, destroys confidence more than achieving personal goals, teaches roup think over critical thinking, promotes ideologies over historical facts and that leaves children without life skills for the world we now live in.