

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1445
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Submitter Comments:

I am writing to include my submission for review to the committee and to parliament. I am a homeschooling parent and I do not support the proposed changes. Home educators tailor individualised learning plans for each homeschooled child to ensure they take into account each child's individual learning style, their learning needs, medical and behavioural needs. My children have lifelong Disabilities. They already have 5 subjects as-well as Our culture history, My 9 year old gets tired easily and under the proposed changes she would be forced to do 8 subjects per year instead of 6. She physically cannot manage 8 subjects per year without her health deteriorating. My 12 year old was bullied throughout primary years and again in her first year in High school, years that is suppose to be memorable moments, where children are supported and provided a safe learning environment to be educated in. As a result of being bullied for years she is left to heal from Trauma that has caused major mental health issues, she cannot cope with the curriculum we follow, let alone deal with the curriculum they teach in schools! I already meet all legislative home education planning and reporting requirements. In fact I and thousands of other homeschoolers now have to take more time out of our day to advocate for our families needs as we are under attack by our own so called "representatives". I have spent my entire life advocating for my children and will continue to do so. This proposed legislation is not in children's best interests, it takes away a parents fundamental right to home educate their child. And it proposes we need to "prove" home education is in our child's best interests. Who gets to decide this for us? The very school system that failed our children? The school system that has not been able to accomodate to my children's needs. As mentioned above, schools are not always a safe environment for children with special needs, it is not always a quiet environment where everyone wants to learn (there are children who are loud and are not there to learn, distracting other peers who want to learn! My Daughters have never felt safe in a school environment, I have missed many days off work due to being called from the school to collect my child early! Such a huge inconvenience! The Australian curriculum is too rigid and very out of date. It is not fit for purpose and does not promote diversity or inclusivity for diverse learners. In fact many children had to leave the school system and their educators had to dump ACARA because their childrens disability meant it was not possible for their child to meet the requirements of the curriculum. 61% of Qld homeschoolers identify as having a disability or medical condition. They leave schools due to the school system neglecting, abusing them or they have been bullied at school as mentioned before my child is a victim of first hand bullying. With Distance education schools following the curriculum so closely they are unable to individualize learning plans or adjust a child's learning level to suit a child's specific needs. Also distance education often involves a higher workload then mainstream school and is not suited to children with chronic or palliative health conditions nor for neurodiverse learners. The added invasive and punitive reporting and planning criteria in this bill will take away valuable time I have to spend with my children and takes away time I have to ensure they are receiving a high quality education. How about leave home educators alone to continue the fantastic job we are already doing, and leave us to continue to utilize a system that currently works. If it's not broken, don't fix it. I also feel forcing untrained parents to take on a job that teachers spend 6 years studying at University to do, devalues the teaching profession. I am not formally trained to link learning activities to the Australian curriculum. And why would the government pay teachers if they can force parents to do this job for free through fear and intimidation? My job is not to meet continuously stringent red tape requirements for this government. My job is to support my child's learning needs to the best of my ability. If governments want parents to act more like teachers and follow the Australian curriculum should we not also

receive proper funding and a wage? I believe home educators save the government upwards of \$22,000 per homeschooled child. And that's just in essential funding, for which we receive nothing. Sent from the Homeschooling parent in QLD Ruia Kopa