

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1453
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Submitter Comments:

I am a homeschooling mother of 4, my eldest 2 went through the public schooling system and followed the national curriculum. I am currently homeschooling my younger 2 children. I feel that my children who followed the national curriculum have left school ill equipped for life. It takes a cookie cutter approach and takes little account of the child's natural abilities or interests. A lot of what they learnt at school as been forgotten because it was not required. When they did further studies they learnt the Maths and English skills required alongside the course they chose to study. My younger 2 children have diverse needs and were not thriving in the school system. We need to teach them using a different format and pace to how it is presented at school to help them learn efficiently. They have enough time to follow their passions and they retain what they learn because they are actually interested. We teach through life and when they show genuine curiosity they want to explore these areas further. They are learning how to conduct research and write letters and do reports. My 14yo successfully applied for a job, he researched how to write an application letter and viewed sample resumes and submitted the application on his own. We guided him through the process and now he is learning important life skills through a part time job. My youngest child attended school until year 2 but could not read and write because the teachers did not have time for him, he fell beneath the cracks with their traditional style of teaching. They had to move on with their busy curriculum, they didn't even have time for show and tell in prep because they had so much work to fit in. He learnt how to read and write through playing games, and he is now able to read chapter books, but because of his sensory processing he can only read in short bursts, so he prefers audio books and watching documentaries to learn. He is unable to show his learning through traditional methods like exams and essays, but if you ask him to talk about an area of interest he has researched he can talk for hours. To make my son sit and learn the national curriculum would be like torture for him, and he wouldn't retain the information any way. Please don't take away our flexibility to homeschool our children and force them to learn a national curriculum that is time consuming and can be irrelevant to life. It has been proven that a child will learn naturally through life and explore their curiosity if given a chance. School takes away that curiosity and they focus on getting good grades rather than the love of learning, all to forget that information when they leave school. I believe the focus should be on fixing the national curriculum rather than trying to force homeschoolers to teach often irrelevant information to our children. It is our God given right to to teach our children, homeschooling children can and have been very successful without the National curriculum .I request you reject the proposed changes to homeschooling