

## Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 1521  
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**Submitter Comments:**

Subject: Advocating for Homeschooling: Supporting Children's Individual Learning Needs

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to emphasise the importance of understanding and supporting the diverse learning needs of children, particularly those who thrive in non-traditional educational environments such as homeschooling. As a homeschooling mother and one who is deeply committed to my children's educational journey, I urge the committee to consider the detrimental impact of forcing children back into environments that do not suit their learning needs.

For many homeschooling families, including mine, the decision to homeschool stems from a desire to provide our children with an educational experience that honours their individual interests, strengths, and aspirations. Homeschooling allows our children to pursue their passions, delve deeply into subjects that captivate their curiosity, and develop the skills necessary to succeed in their chosen paths.

By following their own learning interests and setting goals tailored to their personal futures, homeschooled children are empowered to take ownership of their education and chart a course that aligns with their unique talents and ambitions. This personalised approach fosters a sense of agency and self-efficacy that is often lacking in traditional school settings, where children may feel constrained by rigid structures and standardised expectations.

As a homeschooling mum, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact of this approach on our children's academic success, personal development, and overall well-being. Rather than seeing children “fail”, homeschooling offers a lifeline—a chance for children to thrive in environments that nurture their individuality and potential. We have watched our own children grow and flourish with their homeschooling journey. They are very happy, healthy children who love to learn.

I implore the committee to take the time to speak directly with homeschooling families and to listen to their insights and experiences. By understanding the diverse motivations and approaches within the homeschooling community, we can work together to create policies that support children's individual learning needs and ensure that every child has the opportunity to succeed.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sonia Mackenzie  
Homeschooling Mum and Advocate