

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1522
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Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee members, I am writing to you in regard to the proposed changes to the education legislation for our state. I am a home-schooling parent of four children from the ages of 13 to 9 and I am very concerned with how some of these changes will affect not only our family but the whole home-schooling community. I have specific concerns with the implications of Clause 18, 64 and 68. The Australian Curriculum has been customised to educate children in schools and as a home-schooling parent we simply do not have the background to teach this to our children at home. My children did not respond to the Australian Curriculum during their years at school and I strongly do not believe they will respond to it at home. They are now enjoying the flexibility of learning topics of their choice and their interests and have gone from once disengaged and struggling to keep up at school, to now thriving and happy children, children whose confidence is now slowly increasing and anxiety decreasing. Deciding to home school is why we made this decision for our children. They tried the system and in my opinion, it was not suitable for my four children. Who other than a parent who knows their child best should be able to define whether or not home schooling is suitable for them? Just to give a small insight of our personal experience with just one of our children - My now 13-year-old struggled immensely during her first 6 years in school. She was not engaging and felt like she was being left behind. Her confidence dramatically decreased. I was approached on many occasions about my child needing extra support but was told they simply did not have the resources to give this support to her. Implementing these changes to the legislation, how is this going to affect an already struggling system? Now, 3 years home schooling, she has goals for herself, she is focusing on her interests, and she is more confident than I have ever seen her. It's a shame we didn't take this path sooner. I do very much feel not having this flexibility and having to follow the curriculum would have hindered this progress for her. In conclusion I strongly urge the committee to reconsider the proposed changes to the home-schooling legislation and instead focus on supporting home schooling families to continue to provide a high quality and diverse education for each individual child and their individual needs. Yours sincerely, Rebecca Grant