

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1563
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Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Subject: The Power of Individualized Education in Homeschooling
Dear Committee Members, I am writing to underscore the invaluable experience of home educating families in providing individualized curriculums that lead to exceptionally high-quality education outcomes for our children. It is our collective experience that personalized, tailored programs not only promote deep engagement but also foster levels of achievement that far surpass those achievable within the confines of a standardized curriculum designed for institutional settings. Homeschooling allows us, as parents, to craft educational experiences that are uniquely suited to the interests, strengths, and learning styles of each of our children. By tailoring the curriculum to meet their individual needs, we can provide them with a level of engagement and motivation that is often unimaginable within the constraints of a one-size-fits-all approach. Our experience has shown that individualized programs enable our children to pursue their passions, delve deeply into subjects that captivate their curiosity, and develop critical thinking skills that will serve them well throughout their lives. By empowering our children to take ownership of their learning and follow their own paths of inquiry, we are preparing them to thrive in an ever-changing world that demands adaptability and creativity. Furthermore, individualized education fosters a love of learning that extends beyond the classroom and into all aspects of our children's lives. They are not simply memorizing facts and figures but are actively engaged in the process of discovery, exploration, and problem-solving. Additionally, the Australian Curriculum is an incredibly complex document that has been tailored to educate children in schools. Many schools employ curriculum specialists to interpret and implement this document. As a homeschooler, we don't have access to this level of expertise. In order to implement this, we would need to base our learning off over-simplified textbooks, rush through topics and stop the practical, hands-on nature of our learning. In a 1:1 setting, this is not a high-quality education, and having to rigidly adhere to this would result in a learning experience contrary to the best-interests and well-being of my own child, and doubtless many others. As a parent, it would be substantially easier to just enrol my child into distance education but we have already discovered that this method of learning would be detrimental to my child and our family. The policy objectives state that the amendment bill is to "...improve education services by...acknowledging wellbeing, inclusion and diversity...", however enforcing families to take on the onerous task of replicating mainstream schooling in their home not only is a risk to wellbeing and diversity, it forces them to place their child in a situation that many already know does not work for their child, which again, is detrimental to their wellbeing. I'm concerned that the legislation has been introduced without proper consultation with current homeschooling families and I hope that you will take my feedback into consideration. For education to be inclusive of all students, I believe it is important to understand the reasoning behind the education decisions of the families who struggle the most to fit into mainstream education. While the consultation methods have been outlined, I feel that having Lived-Experience representatives present during high-level meetings, not as a token representatives, but as active participants, would reveal the need for the current flexibility to remain. In conclusion, I urge the committee to recognize the profound impact of individualized education in homeschooling and to respect the autonomy of homeschooling families to continue providing personalized curriculums that best serve the needs of our children. By embracing the diversity of approaches within homeschooling, we can ensure that every child receives a high-quality education that prepares them for success in the 21st century and beyond. Thank you for your attention and consideration. Sincerely,