

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1571
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Dear Parliamentary Committee Members, I am writing to you with my concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the education bill that has recently been presented to parliament. As a previous home educating parent of a daughter registered with the Home Education Unit and now a home educating parent and registered with Distance Education, I do not support some of these changes that may be introduced and I am concerned about the impact they will have on my family as well as other friends and educating families in the homeschooling community. As a parent of a creative and neurodiverse young teenager, I have discovered by experience, that parents should have the choice to choose specific curriculum subjects and a holistic education that works for their child. A parent knows the child best and if parents have the best interests of the child in mind and an awareness around their learning and sensory differences, as well as accepting their capacities are not suited for large classroom and traditional schooling methods, then a personalized teaching environment through home education is the more suitable and supportive option, in my opinion. After the stressors and time pressures of my child being educated in the traditional classroom environment for a number of years, which included non-differentiated learning and non-acceptance of sensory overwhelm in the teaching staff and also the learning support and enrichment staff, I, as a parent, found the avoidant behaviours and nervous system dysregulation and meltdowns that were displayed in my child, as a response to large classroom and group education was actually reducing my child's educational engagement, mental health, socialization capacities and ability to focus on learning. When I registered my child with the HEU, I was very impressed with the provisional registration they offered while I took the extra care and time to write up a specific and student tailored home education plan using a variety of resources and educational approaches that I researched and that were mostly shared from experienced home educators and families. I do not agree that all home educating students should be required to learn all the subjects consistent with the national curriculum and ACARA, whether they are with the HEU or Distance Education schooling providers. I believe there needs to be differentiated learning approaches in regards to the child's talents, interests, family values and any inherent neurodiversities or kinaesthetic learning styles and this can be achieved positively through a variety of homeschooling practices in an approach which suits the individual's developmental and academic traits. In my opinion and in the educational, social and emotional life of my child, homeschooling has been successful. It has been and continues to be inclusive and self-affirming. Kind Regards [REDACTED] B.Mus (QCM) Blue & Yellow Cards CPR & First Aid