

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1586
Submitted by: Acushla Wilson
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members, I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed changes in homeschooling legislation, specifically the mandate to follow a predefined curriculum. I am a Primary Teacher with a Master of Education who plans to homeschool my own children. I am deeply concerned that these changes would undermine the core principles that drive many families, including mine, to choose homeschooling as the preferred educational path for our children. Homeschooling for our family is about learning in a way that suits my child's individual interests, abilities, and learning styles. By imposing a standardised curriculum, the proposed changes would restrict my children's autonomy and limit their ability to pursue real education in a manner that best fits their unique needs. We choose to homeschool to provide my child with a learning experience that is unique to her, allows her to explore topics of her choosing and lead her own learning. This is not done when following a stock-standard, cookie cutter curriculum that all students are required to follow. With rigid curriculum such as ACARA, it fails to acknowledge the diverse interests and talents of homeschooling students. It overlooks the fact that each child is unique and may excel in different subjects or learning environments. By mandating specific educational requirements, we risk stifling our children's passions, natural curiosity for learning and hindering their overall development. As a teacher in the classroom, I have seen how the overcrowded curriculum does not take into consideration individual needs, life experiences, prior knowledge or skills. The curriculum often moves too quickly for students to deep dive and gain a solid understanding of the topic before having to move on to the next topic. I do not want this for my daughter, or any other homeschooling student who has opted out of the standardised curriculum environment. The proposed changes not only undermine the fundamental principles of homeschooling, rights as a parent to provide an education for our children but also limit my children's ability to learn and grow in a way that honours their individuality and creativity. As a dedicated parent and educator invested in my children's education, I urge the committee to reconsider these restrictive measures and focus instead on supporting families in providing a rich and diverse educational experience tailored to each child's needs. Thank you for considering my concerns.