

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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Submitter Comments:

My daughters are 13 and 15, and have been homeschooling since grade 1. We started out by following the curriculum according to ACARA. However, they were both stressed about the workload and wordiness of the structured learning I had set up. So, I compromised by adding more unschooling methods into our days, and I saw an immediate change in both of them. At first, the change was that their anxiety levels decreased. Then, it came in the form of them being able to explore their varied interests entirely. My youngest has ADHD and my eldest is Autistic, and they have different learning styles and requirements. Over the years, I have pushed curriculum based learning on them, however in order for them to get the most out of their education, I also had to know when to compromise and lean more heavily on unschooling strategies. I have the privilege of being able to tailor their education specifically to them, which means they are prepared and enabled to work, contribute and thrive in the communities they live in as teenagers, and in future, as adults.

We are in a season of curriculum based learning right now because unschooling seasons enabled that. My daughters are both motivated to go to university as their career paths require it, and they are prepared for that. I don't believe this would be possible if we had been following curriculum based learning alone. I understand if that seems unusual to someone looking from the outside in, and I may have thought so too; but when it is your lived experience, you know what you know, and I know this as a certainty. If child safety is a concern, perhaps in-home visits (like nsw) might be a better path forward, than telling parents they have no other educational option but to follow the curriculum.