

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1721
Submitted by: Sarah McDonald
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Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I am writing to express profound concern regarding the recent proposed changes to home education legislation in our state. As a constituent deeply invested in our community's welfare, I feel compelled to share my apprehensions about the potential ramifications of these amendments on our education system. Allow me to introduce myself briefly; my name is Sarah McDonald, and I am a mother of 5 children. We have a mixture of children in mainstream education and children learning at home. Our family firmly believes that education is not a one-size-fits-all approach. We decide on the educational path for each child based on their individual needs and abilities, making choices accordingly. The Australian curriculum, while valuable for many, may not suit every child. The ability to tailor our children's education based on their unique needs and abilities has allowed us to achieve significantly better outcomes. While we are most happy to continue providing detailed plans and reports to the home education unit, the idea that we should need to conform to a system designed specifically for a mainstream education model is concerning. Our learning at home is fundamentally different, allowing us to follow our children's interests and tailor a program that not only accommodates their neurodiversity but also enables them to thrive using their individual strengths. Moreover, there is significant apprehension regarding the lack of transparency and public involvement in the decision-making process. As a stakeholder in our education system, I firmly believe that the perspectives of educators, parents, students, and community members should be integral to any reforms affecting our schools. Specifically, the proposed changes must not infringe upon the freedom of families to choose home education as a viable option for their children. Home education offers a unique opportunity for tailored learning experiences, allowing families like mine to flourish academically and personally. In light of these pressing concerns, I urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed education legislation and prioritise the best interests of our children. I implore you to advocate for a more inclusive and collaborative approach to policymaking, one that values input from all stakeholders and ensures the integrity and excellence of our education system. Thank you for dedicating your time to review my correspondence and for considering the concerns raised herein. I eagerly anticipate your response and the opportunity for further discourse on this critical matter.