

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

Subject: Homeschooling Success and Real-World Preparation: A Parent's Perspective
Dear Committee Members, I am writing to share my firsthand experience as a home schooling parent and to emphasise the invaluable learning opportunities that home schooling has provided for my children. In light of the proposed changes to home schooling legislation, I believe it's crucial to highlight the positive impact that home schooling has had on my children's love for learning and their preparation for the real world. We chose home education at an early age and neither of my 2 children have attended school. Although I was concerned how they would learn without a school environment, I have witnessed a remarkable journey that has seen them learn to read, write, do maths and retain extensive knowledge on all sorts of topics and information. Our ability to personalize their learning approach has instilled in them a passion for learning and a confidence in their abilities. Rather than merely memorizing facts and figures, they are actively engaged in exploring topics that spark their curiosity and pursuing knowledge in a way that resonates with them personally. For example; my 13 year old daughter recently became interested in planes and flying. She has since found a podcast for learning to fly and has absorbed that; she has read multiple books; watched many videos and has made her own edits for youtube as well as making a model aeroplane with amazing design and detail. Would she have had the freedom to do this if her days were consumed with following a curriculum that had no interest to her? Instead she has explored a whole subject, learnt amazing information and looked ahead to see if this was a career she may want to pursue. It all come down to freedom to learn, in a manner that engages the child. Although we do follow many of the basics of the curriculum we do not abide by all of it and as a Christian family we would not like to expose our children to some of the information presented in the curriculum, or at least have the freedom to adapt it and present it at an appropriate age. Even though we are very active in presenting our children with a wide range of information on other religions, different beliefs and viewpoints, it would go against our morals and beliefs to teach our children some of the information that may be forced on them via a compulsory curriculum. Through homeschooling, my children are not only acquiring academic knowledge but also developing essential life skills and values that are essential for success in the real world. They are learning how to think critically, communicate effectively, and adapt to new situations—all skills that will serve them well beyond the confines of a classroom. Moreover, homeschooling allows my children to actively participate in the world around them, gaining practical experience and insight that simply cannot be replicated in a traditional school setting. Whether it's volunteering in the community, pursuing hobbies and interests, or engaging in real-world projects, they are actively preparing for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. My daughter's great love is horses and she has the amazing opportunity to spend 2 mornings a week at the local Equine vets property where she assists with the horses, feeding and riding and of course learning everything she can. This is real life experience and learning and advances her beyond the confines of books and a classroom. In conclusion, I urge the committee to recognize and celebrate the diverse benefits of homeschooling, which go beyond mere academic achievement. As a homeschooling parent, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to nurture my children's love of learning and to prepare them for the complexities of the real world through personalized, holistic education. I am constantly being told how wonderful my children are by those I meet in the community and I am proud of the children we are raising. Our children have no developed no learning disabilities, no behavioural issues/syndromes, no need for therapy, have never been bullied, don't rely on any government funding, are confident, intelligent, fun, kind humans who are ready to take on the world as fully functioning adults! I will forever be thankful for

our decision to home educate as parents we have the right to and in a way that best sets them up for the future! I disagree with the proposed changes to the legislation and ask you to considering my perspective. Thank you