

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Dear Sir/Madam, I hope this message finds you well. My name is [REDACTED], and I'm 14 years old. I want to share my thoughts about the new education bill you're discussing. I'm neurodivergent, and I've been to three different mainstream schools over four years. Unfortunately, my experience wasn't great. The schools I attended didn't have enough time or resources to help students like me who needed more one-on-one support to understand lessons. When I asked for help, my teachers sometimes seemed frustrated, and they didn't always have time for me. I'd try to ask classmates for help, but then I'd get in trouble for distracting them. There were days when I couldn't finish my work, and my teacher would make me stay in at lunchtime to finish it. It made me sad to miss out on playing with my friends. I started feeling like my teacher was always picking on me instead of understanding that I learn differently, which made me feel isolated and inadequate. Eventually, my Mum decided to homeschool me. I missed my friends, but I found I could learn better at home. I felt safer and more comfortable, and I could learn at my own pace. I've been able to explore subjects I'm interested in and meet other homeschoolers for sports and educational activities. I've also been lucky enough to travel and learn about different cultures. Instead of pushing for this new bill, I think it would be better to look at changing what's taught in schools and listening to families like mine who choose homeschooling. Teachers also say they wish they could spend more one-on-one time with students who learn differently. As someone who struggled in mainstream school but has thrived in homeschooling, I believe it's important to protect our right to choose how we're educated. Thank you for listening. Warm regards, [REDACTED]