Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1811

Submitted by: Fiona Chadwick

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Submitter Comments:

From:

Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee

Cc: Redcliffe Electorate Office

Subject: Changes to Homeschooling Legislation
Date: Sunday, 24 March 2024 5:31:55 PM

To the Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee,

I am a single mum to 2 children, 17 and 15, who both have Autism spectrum disorder, ADHD, severe anxiety, and one has Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. We have homeschooled, both via distance education schools and Home Education Unit for several years.

I am writing to object to the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Bill 2024 in the current form. I have specific concerns with the implications of Clauses 18, 64 & 68 and I am in support of the Free2homeschool Movement. These changes will impact the wonderful home educating families I know, restricting them in their freedom of choice when it comes to educating their children, therefore having a detrimental effect on thousands of children across the state.

This will have a direct impact on my child and how I educate her.

Miss 17 has left school now and is studying at TAFE courses. Miss 15 has high needs with her ASD level 2, ADHD, PDA, and now OCD. Her mental health declined significantly each time we tried state distance education schools, due to strict time frames and rigid structure. She needed more flexibility and time to complete work. I tried to work to the Australian Curriculum structure and time frames at home, however she struggled to keep up, and get overwhelmed, and lead to decline to her mental health. I have found that unschooling, following her interests to lead her learning to be successful. I am seeing her gain confidence, and finally enjoying her learning. With this new legislation, this will not be possible. She hopes to do TAFE and single university subjects in the next year. She uses resources from overseas curriculums sometimes, because they suit her learning better.

I also noted the new plans for reporting for all subjects. We already have plans and reports reviewed and approved by the Home Education Unit each year. My concern is that the amount of time I spend planning and reporting is extremely time consuming, and this takes my time away from actually working with her. I am a carer for both my daughters, and also my elderly mum. If I have to report and plan for all subjects, this will add a huge amount of time and stress to my already busy workload.

Kind regards,

Fiona Chadwick

