

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Subject: Reconsidering Homeschooling Legislation: Addressing Real Issues

Dear Committee Members,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express concerns regarding the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation.

Firstly, I would like to add that I was home educated, and I have found in my career and life that it has served me extremely well. I have (in my 38 years) had not one, but many successful careers – including (but not limited to) running my own magazine (which is still running), successfully working as a media adviser and Chief of Staff to a Federal Politician, and (currently) I am heading a national campaign for indigenous communities. I also plan on home educating my two-year-old son when he is of school age.

In my experience fellow adults my age who were home educated have excelled in their chosen fields and have a prominently “can do” attitude. They know the world is their oyster and will work at anything to achieve goals.

As stakeholders in the homeschooling community, it's imperative that we engage in a thorough examination of the real issues prompting families to opt for homeschooling rather than simply enforcing rigid curriculum requirements.

It has come to my attention that the proposed changes primarily focus on mandating adherence to a standardized curriculum without delving into the underlying reasons why many families choose homeschooling in the first place. This approach fails to address the

core issues at hand and risks further alienating homeschooling families from the educational system.

It's crucial to acknowledge that homeschooling is often chosen by families for a variety of reasons, including dissatisfaction with the traditional schooling system, concerns about safety and bullying, religious or philosophical beliefs, or a desire for more personalized and flexible learning experiences tailored to individual student needs.

Rather than imposing stricter regulations, I urge the committee to prioritize understanding and addressing the root causes of homeschooling trends. This entails listening to and considering the feedback from homeschooling parents, who are directly impacted by these legislative changes. Their insights and experiences are invaluable in shaping effective policies that support the diverse needs of families while ensuring the well-being and educational success of children.

In conclusion, I respectfully urge the committee to reconsider the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation and to engage in a collaborative dialogue with homeschooling stakeholders to identify and address the real issues driving this educational choice. By doing so, we can work towards a more inclusive and responsive educational system that respects the choices and concerns of all families.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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