

## Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 1828  
**Submitted by:** Nina Wilcox  
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## The Committee Making Changes to Homeschool Legislation

I am writing as a concerned Grandparent regarding the proposed changes to Homeschool Legislation. Namely the requirements to follow the National Curriculum and the requirement to PROVE that Homeschooling is in the best interest of the child/children concerned along with proof of academic progress in the 8 key areas of the curriculum. My daughter chose to home school her children in 2017 as they were not thriving academically, socially or emotionally in the School System. Homeschooling gave my daughter the option to choose curriculums that offered the flexibility to tailor each child's education to their particular learning styles and enabled each child to learn at a pace better suited to their abilities and or disabilities. This is understandably lacking in the school system as teachers do not have the time or resources to offer individualised tuition to each child, especially as they are under pressure to meet the desired outcomes of the National Curriculum within set time-frames. An impossible and unrealistic expectation. If all the children who are currently homeschooled were forced back into the school system because their parents were unable to comply with this proposed legislation, the outcome would be disastrous for teachers and students. Children are homeschooled because they do not cope in the school system. Forcing them back in will result in the negative behaviour patterns and emotional and mental stresses which caused them to be homeschooled in the first place. There would be more stress in the classrooms and increased pressure on teachers to deal with the resulting problems. More government funding would be required to cater for these children in schools (currently no funding is offered to parents of homeschooled children). Of concern also is the recent announcement in the news that students are increasingly seeking out mental health assistance to cope with the stress of exams and the high expectations to succeed and attain high marks. That is not a good scenario for our young people. Adding back into the system children who are already struggling would only intensify this situation. I believe a "One Size Fits All" approach to education is not the answer. One standard curriculum will not cater for the varied needs and abilities of neuro-diverse children. Allowing homeschooling parents to choose the resources they use and the delivery methods they use to teach their children will result in far better outcomes for these students. Overburdening parents with onerous and complex reporting requirements would not be in the best interests of their children's education. Parents who choose to homeschool do so because they want to create a learning environment that is best for THEIR child. Forcing them to prove that their child is progressing academically in all areas at a pre-determined rate, based on mainstream student abilities is an unfair and unrealistic expectation.