

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1852
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Dear Committee,

My family and I are into our 5th year of home-schooling. We chose to remove our daughters from mainstream schooling to provide them with a classical Christian education, using a curriculum that thoroughly meets that approach. Choosing to home-school has meant choosing quality family time with our kids. I know my daughters' learning style and needs better than anyone else, and to be able to tailor the teaching to best engage them, only benefits their learning and consolidation of content. Home-schooling offers the flexibility which ensures my daughter is grasping and applying learning concepts, before new material is introduced, resulting in increased confidence and academic development.

I do not agree with the proposed changes, as they would force us to adhere to a standardised curriculum that does not align with our children's learning style and needs. The proposed legislation fails to acknowledge the already high standard of education provided to home-schooling children and imposes unjustifiably increased workload and reporting requirements on home educators. During our home-schooling journey, I have observed that my children learn best through inquiry and interest-led learning, engaging deeply when they are passionate about a topic. A one-size-fits-all approach would stifle their natural curiosity and hinder their academic and personal growth.

The requirement to report on 8 different Key Learning Areas is excessive. This places a significant burden on home-schooling parents and takes away valuable learning and planning time with our children. Reporting should be simplified to ensure that it does not detract from the quality of education provided at home.

The lack of transparency and public consultation surrounding these changes is concerning. As stakeholders in our education system, I believe it is imperative for the voices of educators, parents, students, and community members to be heard and considered in any decision-making process that impacts our ability to educate our children to the highest standard. If home-schooling will only be granted if it is in the best interest of the child; who do you propose will be determining what's in the best interest of my child?

I urge you to reconsider the proposed education legislation and to recognise the value and benefits of home-schooling. We are dedicated to providing our children with a holistic education that nurtures their well-being and prepares them for a successful future. I implore you to advocate for policies that support and empower home-schooling families to continue providing high-quality education tailored to their children's needs.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I look forward to your response on this important issue.