

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Oppose the proposal of the education bill
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Dear committee

I am writing to oppose the proposal of the education bill. I am the solo home-schooling mother of 2 high needs children. One child has Xq28 duplication, symptoms are Hypotonia, Hypermobility, Pain Fatigue syndrome, PDA. My other child now has Trauma presenting as ADHD as a result of a sexual assault in school.

Due to my kids needs it is so important that I have the flexibility to choose a curriculum and learning style that will best suit their needs. The Australian curriculum does not allow me to do this .

My child was in the gifted class when they were in their first school. We had to leave the first school after a sexual assault, the school did nothing to protect my child, only protect the image of the school. The 2 boys who did it didn't even get suspended, yet my child had to move classrooms, have their play reduced and made them change their morning routine. There was no support for the and they were scared to be in the school so I took them out.

The department of education wouldn't help us get in the next nearest school, even after what happened to my child (because of catchment) and we had to travel to a school further away. We started the school and my child was struggling. The bullying was excessive, they were targeted by 2 children. They couldn't sit in their seat anymore, their nervous system was that heightened. In the end the school told me to take them out for their own metal health. Again the department of education would help us get into the closer school so I had to travel 50kms per day to a small school that I hoped would be more accepting of my child. Unfortunately not. Meeting after meeting prepping the school for my child and they were made to sit separately from the rest of the class because they struggled to sit still. We lasted 6 weeks and I made the difficult decision to homeschool. I would like to note my child had never ever been in trouble at school, or hurt anybody ever. They tried their best but was never good enough according to the school which depleted their self esteem and confidence.

My younger child started at the second school, they were the top student in their year for the 2 years there. I was told by the school they were too emotional and that I should teach them resilience. My child was waking 2-3 times per week in pain with their body, We had fortnightly appointments at OT, Physio, Psychologist and dietician which took 2 years to get the appointments because there are not many around. My child used to sleep in class everyday as their body would fatigue. With all of this they were still top of their year and the school still told me they needed more resilience!

Unfortunately my child was bullied too, which made them stop being themselves. They were scared to go to school. They were a perfectionist. If they got one question wrong out of 10

they would struggle.

I strongly oppose the use of the Australian curriculum as the sole definition of high quality education. The National curriculum is not a suitable substitute for the carefully created, individualised education my child currently receives and needs to thrive.

The past year has been very difficult for us. Taking them both out of school, solo parent, trying to start a business and studying, but it has been worth it.

I have put in 100% effort into getting my children to heal from their trauma and we have a way to go. They are happier and are finally playing again like children should be, not terrified and having their nervous systems heightened all the time.

We learn through their passions, they bake, make jewellery and are building a little business to sell at the homeschool markets. They learn everything that goes into it. My eldest is learning to pay bills and do banking, paying invoices etc. We went on a de-schooling roadtrip for 6 weeks, they planned the trip and worked out money for fuel etc, where we'd stay. We travelled 8000kms and made their dreams come true. We spent our time in art galleries, museums and seeing famous landmarks. My children were learning but being out and about in nature every day. Same at home, we live in the rainforest so that's where we learn and at the beach.

I object to the inclusion of a guiding principle which removes my power as a mother to make the best choices for my (ND/Disabled) child. No one knows what my child needs better than me. Through love, support and connection, not sitting at a desk all day learning. The way were are learning now is the way it will stay for the sake of my children.

Regards

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