Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by: Nicole Steed

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From: To: Subject:

Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee
Objection to proposed home schooling changes

Date: Monday, 25 March 2024 10:59:22 AM

To whom it may concern,

My name is Nicole Steed. I am writing to you today to let you know I do not consent to the proposed changes to the home schooling requirements. As a parent I made the decision to put my eldest children into the school system and they completed their studies through to the end of grade 12. This was not an option for my youngest two children. I pulled my third and forth child out of the system when we realised it wasn't working for them. My now 14 year old was diagnosed at a young age with autism and ADD. He had the hardest time in school with multiple suspensions and my youngest, now 12, suffered with anxiety around going to school. I have homeschooled for the past 2 years and have found the difference to their confidence and learning has been nothing short of astounding. Without the judgement of their peers in a school environment they have had the space to try things without fear of being judged. They have made very good friends in the home schooling community here and my 14 year old who couldn't read after completing high school at a main stream school now reads. He is slower than most but he always has a go. He no longer has issues with lashing out and is very grounded calm and balanced. They have had the opportunity to learn so many new skills by attending short courses and workshops whilst learning about things that are of interest to them. They actually enjoy learning now. There are so many opportunities in our community for homeschoolers and the connection that the parents develop is much closer than I have experienced in the main stream system. This is such an important part of living in a community. It should be our decision how to educate our children. I feel this is a massive overreach. We didn't ask for this.

Nicole Steed