

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 2103
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Attachments: No attachment
Submitter Comments:

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: My Children's Future Education Concerns
Date: Sunday, 24 March 2024 9:04:49 PM

[REDACTED]

Dear Committee Members

My Name is [REDACTED], I am a Mother of 4 and currently home school my 9-year-old and 15 year old and have been now for going on 3 years, my youngest is almost at a school age where he to will be homeschooled and he has Autism.

I homeschooled my now 22-year-old for her grade 11 & 12 through Brisbane Distance Education. She is now Pharmacy Assistant. She had learning difficulties and suffered anxiety, was not passing grades she needed too in order to get into the Uni she was wanting to attend. So we went on to do homeschooling for her grade 11 and 12 which not only seen her graduate but she went from E's and D's in school to A's and B's being homeschooled, then was offered a spot in the best Performing Arts Schools in Qld.

All my Children have a learning disability which hindered their education while in School. They all had needs not being met at some point or through the entire schooling years, such as my oldest Son did. He was diagnosed with Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) in grade 3 by his paediatrician but because its not recognised in Australia at that time on the spectrum he was not "officially" diagnosed.

Teachers throughout his years were concerned about how my Son would go Academically in grade 7 (which was the year he would have been going into high). While he was receiving as much help at school that they could offer him and tutoring out side of school hours, nothing was working because he could not keep up the pace in which the teachers had to move, the style of teaching that was being taught and the environment in which he was taught in.

I come to realise he was not the same as the other 24 students due to his learning difficulties. While Teachers could see him trying hard, see him as such a kind loving kid, he just found school hard and the curriculum hard. He needed things slowed down, he needed time to prosses and retain the information he was being taught. So, grade 6 heading into grade 7 high school his teacher had pulled me aside with her concerns regarding him going forward and said he academically will struggle to keep up in high school but could and told me they don't allow repeats either.

Seeing he was not diagnosed officially with a learning disability the high schools could not offer him any assistance. So, I was at a loss with what to do. He was at a point where he was hating himself, feeling dumb and stupid. His health started to be effected as he started to think he was ugly and fat, he would say things such as " I don't want to live in this world anymore or I hate this world I don't fit in here I'm too stupid" no matter what we did to encourage him that he is not any of those things that he just learns differently to most, he could not see it while he struggled in school. He was doing classes in Japanese and French, failing them miserably. I asked many times can we not do those classes and give him more English or Math because he was failing them and needed more time in those subjects to grasp them, but I was repeatedly told that this is the curriculum an nothing more can be done. He was moving on in classes when he had not understood what he was learning then the next day moved on to something else that he then could not comprehend due to not understanding what he had previously been taught.

So I researched what I could do to help because I knew doing distance education like his biggest sister would not work for him. That's when I found out about homeschooling and pulled him out of mainstream school. I felt he needed a slower pace learning; he needed more understanding and patience. As daunting as the homeschooling thought was, his education was the most important thing in the world to Us. We wanted him so to succeed as a young man and be able to contribute to society and even own his own home one day. I started from scratch building up the fundamental foundations which he missed in the fast pace learning environment and curriculum he was using while in school which was not tailored to his individual needs. Since home schooling he has become a completely different young man. He is now looking for a job. He is keen more then ever to learn, loves Maths now and can write and read so well. Were he was failing before

homeschooling. He has come to love himself, never calls himself stupid or dumb anymore. The confidence in him is seen by everyone. This stems from us learning at his own pace, we don't move on from a subject until he fully grasp it, he learns subjects that he finds interesting and that will benefit him going into the world as a successful well educated young adult. Homeschooling our way has saved his life and helped his emotional, physical and mental health. He is not a one type fits all child and my other children are all the same, they all benefit from homeschooling where following the curriculum in school, the pace and environment was not giving them the very best education they needed. They're now receiving the very best education that what works for them individually. They are thriving in different subjects' areas and their learning environment. By imposing rigid educational requirements, we risk depriving my children of the opportunity to pursue their passions and develop their full potential. Don't we want that for all the children in this world. To have the love of learning and striving to be the very best versions of them self with the best educational experience. In essence, these proposed changes would not only undermine the fundamental principles of homeschooling but also limit my children's ability learn and grow in a way that Honors their individuality and creativity. As a homeschooling parent deeply invested in my children's education, I urge the committee to reconsider these restrictive measures and instead focus on supporting families in providing a rich and diverse educational experience tailored to the needs of each child. Thank you for your time in reading this today.

Kind Regards
[REDACTED] and Family