

Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025

Submission No:	1
Submitted by:	Amanda Bartle
Publication:	Making the submission and your name public
Attachments:	See attachment
Submitter Comments:	

Amanda Bartle

19 March 2025

Committee Members and Secretary

Subject: Submission in Support of Changes to Homeschooling Registration Age

Dear Committee Members,

I am excited to express my support for the changes to the Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025, regarding homeschooling, specifically for the proposed increase in the homeschooling registration age from 17 to 18 years. This change aligns homeschooled students with their peers in traditional schooling, ensuring equal access to year 12 and the associated educational opportunities and financial support.

Access to Year 12 is essential for homeschooled students seeking further education and career pathways. Many valuable resources require proof of Year 12 enrollment, including:

- Centrelink Assistance for families supporting homeschooled children continuing their education.
- Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC), which financially supports families in remote areas and students with medical needs.
- Head Start Programs, at universities for early entry to tertiary education.
- TAFE at School Courses, providing free or reduced-fee vocational training.

By raising the registration age to 18, Queensland will eliminate barriers for homeschooled students, affirming home education as an equal and valid educational choice.

As a parent of three children affected by the age limitation at 17, I see its benefits firsthand. My oldest son with application on assent, could now register for Year 12, allowing him an extra year to strengthen his academic skills while also undertaking his TAFE at School studies to further his career goals.

For transparency, I want to note a potential issue with the wording of this amendment. As it stands, children born before June 30th will turn 18 the year after they complete Year 12, granting them access to an extra year of homeschool registration. While this option would only be utilised by a few neurodiverse students or those with disabilities, it creates an unintended inequity. Nonetheless, I fully support the relevant homeschooling amendment and its goal of providing equal educational rights for homeschooled students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda Bartle