

## Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)  
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Committee Secretary Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000

To the EETSC,

Being made aware of the proposed changes to the Home Education provisions under the Educational General Provisions Act 2006, it appears to the Home Schooling community that most proposed changes have been made without clear comprehension of the needs and wants, struggles and challenges, and actual situations homeschooling families encounter and live. The proposed changes reflect what an outsider with a limited understanding and a lack of experience would conclude.

As a collaborative group, long-standing homeschooling families have said, and are clearly saying "we don't want this - we don't want the National Curriculum in our legislation!".

The concerns are around the legislation requiring parents to teach to the ACARA curriculum. This point has implications for several groups:

1. Parents are not trained in ACARA curriculum; it is clearly stated in the parents' section of the curriculum that the Australian Curriculum is for teachers in schools to ensure consistency across the country.
2. Alternative education providers, recognised in other areas of the legalisation in relation to parents' capacity to choose an alternative school that is (recognised' mainly thinking Steiner and Montessori here), who provide curriculum documents to homeschoolers will no longer be recognised. What implications does this change have for their capacity to also provide a school education in line with other areas of the Act?
3. Teachers and teacher educators are also affected, if we can just ask parents to drop everything and teach to the ACARA documents, why do we spend 4 years undergraduate or 2 years postgraduate teaching them how to teach to ACARA?

A further concern is that the changes imply that parents are now required to give a written report on every subject in the plan. While it's agreed that parents should be providing a report, and that it is imperative we ensure all young people in Queensland receive a high quality education, can the department handle the volume of reports on 8 KLAS from the over 10,000 parents currently registered?

Other concerns are also that the senior subject syllabus documents which are identified in the Act are driven towards students sitting standardised testing in the senior phase of learning (semester 4 of their learning in that subject). If homeschooling families aren't sitting standardised testing, they would be incapable because they cannot have their teaching plans approved by ACARA in any event, this requirement seems moot.

Pertaining to the proposed amendment to section 7, chapter 9 part 5. It is currently proposed that home educating parents demonstrate that homeschooling is in the best interest of the child. This begs the question how that accords with parents' right to choose. After all, this requirement is unlikely to be part of the parents' requirements when they enrol their child in a private school. This point seems like an over-reach.

Teaching to ACARA is a different at every school and homeschooling can be the same. The concern is about removing the right to choose as a parent. We know our child/ren best and will always align with what's in the best interests of our child/ren.

If you would like true insight for amendments to the educational provisions in the Act, please refer to persons who have valuable and experienced input and advice within the homeschooling community, individuals like Dr. Rebecca English, Ms Rose P. Fitz, and Mrs. Rachel Clark.

Regards,

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#free2homeschool