

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

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to the Committee for new education changes for homeschoolers.  
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Committee Secretary  
Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes in homeschooling legislation, particularly the requirement to follow a specific curriculum. As a homeschooling parent, I firmly believe that these changes would undermine the very reasons why many families, including mine, have chosen homeschooling as the preferred mode of education for our children.

The essence of homeschooling lies in the freedom it affords children to learn in a manner that aligns with their individual interests, abilities, and learning styles. By imposing a mandated curriculum, these proposed changes would impede my children's autonomy and hinder their ability to pursue education in a way that best suits their needs.

One of the primary motivations for homeschooling is to provide our children with a personalized learning experience that fosters their intellectual curiosity and allows them to learn at their own pace. These new regulations threaten to restrict this flexibility and stifle their natural inclination to explore and discover the world around them.

I wonder how you think this is the answer to so many choosing to home school now. Surely the many who have left mainstream schooling would make you look at why rather than trying to persecute a whole community who merely educate our children and raise them to be functioning members of society. Home school children often have a more rounded, full education than those sitting in a classroom who merely learn how to take tests. Homeschool children often access higher learning well before a child in school will or even can and find their passion in careers and work while others are just finishing school.

Have you actually spoken to many home school families? Have you seen how happy, well adjusted, kind, empathetic and healthy home school children are? Have you actually looked at how many access higher learning well before those in mainstream school as they are simply ahead of mainstream learning? Have you actually looked at the careers homeschool children have taken? Have you seen how many home school children start businesses well before finishing school? Have you seen how socially well adjusted home school are? I think you will have answered no to all of the above so how can you say we must align like a mainstream school. Main stream schooling didn't for a reason and continues to not work and be out dated and archaic.

Home school children, like mine for example, learn more than tests. They learn budgeting, healthy eating and cooking, about taxes and interests on goods, services and loans. They learn social cues and appropriateness, kindness and empathy through interacting with people of ages and abilities. Schools limit this social ability.

Homeschooling offers several benefits, including:

-Personalized learning: Tailoring education to fit each child's learning style and pace.

- Flexible schedule: Freedom to create a schedule that suits the family's lifestyle and allows for more travel or extracurricular activities.
- Individual attention: Providing one-on-one instruction can help address specific learning needs and foster deeper understanding.
- Stronger family bonds: Spending more time together can strengthen family relationships and create lasting memories.
- Customized curriculum: Choosing curriculum and resources that align with the child's interests, values, and educational goals.
- Safe learning environment: Shielding children from negative influences or safety concerns often found in traditional school settings.
- Enhanced socialization: Opportunities for social interaction through homeschool groups, co-ops, sports, and community activities.

I pulled my kids 7 years ago from school. My eldest, Mr 17, first due to ongoing bullying and being left behind in learning. Being put in that too hard box so we can't be bothered teaching him.

He was diagnosed early with Adhd and ASD with anxiety. He always had problems trying to fit in and get through a lesson. He was always told to sit in a corner and be quiet or sent outside or to detention for not being able to sit still and concentrate. Schools tried many strategies but eventually gave up. Many schools tried and by the time someone found something that worked in primary school he was in high school and everything started again. His anger and frustration at himself because he couldn't be like other kids, the self loathing and hatred which turned outwards to verbal and physical lashing out. The bullying from other kids because my son was different which resulted in them physically attacking him and the teachers not believing him despite the final attack where he had senior children defending him. He was not on a good path.

So we homeschooled him. We gave him a safe place to be himself and realise he was in actual worth something and that he was intelligent despite what he initially believed. He is now 17 and finished grade 12 through HEU. He has started working at 14 and a half and quickly realised the first job had a toxic workplace and was able to leave and find another job. He learned to balance work, school work and added tafe as well. He completed 2 tafe courses and one of them (cert 2 in animal studies) enabled him to gain employment with a cattery. He also will be studying a cert 4 in vet nursing next year (applying for this year intake mid year). He gained so much more confidence being able to learn alternatively through hands on experiences, social outings within the homeschool community, being able to learn through goal orientated learning and interest led learning as sitting and staring at books for long periods didn't work at school. We could base his learning around times that suited him and take more breaks than in school to get through work.

I honestly believe keeping him in school or even trying to replicate the school curriculum at home would have led my son down an unsavoury path and even resulted in his loss of life he was in that dark a place from school trauma.

My daughter was similarly bullied and also has asd adhd depression (with self harm) resulting from school trauma both from teachers and students. She is much safer at home learning in a style that works for her. She has been able to rebuild her self confidence and making quality connections with other home schooled children in much safer environments. She has with the help of her riding and dance teachers learnt more about herself and her confidence than she ever did at school and I would hope we can continue building on this and her relearning her love of learning through being able to structure her learning in ways that suit her rather than having to align to a curriculum that didn't work and resulted in us choosing to homeschool.

At 14 she will start higher learning this year with a cert 2 in dance through her dance studio and next year begin tafe also. This would not be possible if she was limited to the curriculum. She will end up working in her chosen careers much earlier and be a well adjusted adult as a result.

To make the changes you are proposing would alter my children's life path. It would be of no benefit to them at all. If mainstream schooling had worked we wouldn't have needed to leave it behind to explore other options to provide a safe happy learning environment.

Furthermore, enforcing a standardized curriculum fails to recognize the diverse interests and talents of homeschooling students. It overlooks the fact that every child is unique and may thrive in different subject areas or learning environments. By imposing rigid educational requirements, we risk depriving our children of the opportunity to pursue their passions and develop their full potential.

In essence, these proposed changes would not only undermine the fundamental principles of homeschooling but also limit my children's ability to 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 considering my concerns

Regards  
Laura Schuls

