

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

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Education Legislation changes.  
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Subject: Opposition to Education Legislation changes.

Dear Minister for Education,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent education legislation changes, particularly in relation to homeschooling in Queensland. As a constituent and parent who homeschools my children, I strongly oppose the introduction of this legislation for several reasons.

Our key concerns with the proposed legislation are as follows:

1. Queensland already boasts the most rigorous reporting system for homeschooling in the country. The additional measures being proposed only serve to burden families, and the HEU, with unnecessary bureaucracy and oversight. We have been able to effectively educate our children within the current framework and do not see the need for further regulation.

2. We adamantly oppose the inclusion of the Australian National Curriculum in our homeschooling legislation. Each family has unique values and educational goals, and being forced to adhere to a standardised curriculum undermines our ability to tailor our children's education to their individual needs and interests. The National Curriculum is a complex document that is designed for educating children in schools. Teachers spend years studying, and schools employ specialist staff, to understand and interpret the National Curriculum. This is not practical, nor possible, for homeschooling parents.

I have two children with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder). Both children struggled through their years in mainstream schooling. They were at a highly regarded private school, who were very responsive to my children's needs and had tailored learning plans for each of them. Even with this additional help my children were well behind grade expectations, anxious, overwhelmed and hated school. Since being homeschooled my children are thriving. They are at, or above, grade level in maths and English and are thirsting for knowledge in others areas such as science, geography, art and music. I have spent significant time in discussions with my children's specialist doctors, psychologists, occupational therapists and other allied health to tailor our homeschooling to their abilities and their individual needs. Each of them has an eclectic learning style and we use a variety of high quality resources each day, as well as group teaching, daily outings and excursions and hands on learning activities. All of this far exceeds what the National Curriculum offers my children.

3. We object to being compelled to report and demonstrate 'educational progress' in every subject area. Homeschooling allows us the flexibility to prioritise certain subjects or learning experiences based on our children's strengths and interests. Mandating progress reports across all subjects is impractical and restrictive. It is also unreasonable for children, like my own, who have a disability and learning difficulties and will be detrimental to their mental health. Not to mention, that your HEU will have a significant increase in workload that is unreasonable and unnecessary.

4. We are strongly opposed to the provision that allows the Home Education Unit (HEU) to request reporting for times when we are not registered. This infringes upon our privacy and autonomy as homeschooling families, as well as creating an undue burden of accountability. This is blatant overreach on behalf of the government and outside of your jurisdiction.

5. We reject the implication that we need to prove homeschooling is in our child's best interest. As parents, we have made a thoughtful and deliberate choice to homeschool based on what we believe is best for our children's education and overall well-being. The presumption that we must justify this choice is unjust and disrespectful. We did not make the decision for me to stop work, live off one income, and take our children out of school to homeschool lightly. It was a deeply difficult, thoroughly thought out and researched decision. One based, in many ways, on the fact that the education system and National Curriculum has failed our children and simply doesn't suit them.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the changes to education legislation for homeschooling in Queensland.

Instead of imposing more regulations and oversight, I implore you to look at the incredible outcomes associated with homeschooling. Speak to those of us on the ground, doing the hard work and giving our children a quality education. Trust and support homeschooling families who are already providing excellent educational opportunities for their children within the existing framework.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. I hope, going forward, this legislation can be made to suit the needs of all Queensland children. I look forward to hearing your response to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Kendall

