

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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#free2homeschool

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to strongly oppose the legislation that the Minister for Education, Di Farmer MP is proposing, that requires homeschooling families in Qld to follow the Australian curriculum in response to the increasing number of parents and children choosing to homeschool.

This bill is proposing to change the definition of an approved education plan, to providing a high-quality education aligning with the Australian Curriculum. I have deep concerns regarding the proposed overregulation of homeschooling practices, and these include as follows:

- The current curriculum is inflexible, it is not designed for a home setting and does not suit a one-size-fits-all attitude to learning/teaching.
- It is important to recognise that homeschooling families do not seek to replicate the traditional school system at home. Rather, we embrace the opportunity to provide a personalised, holistic education that aligns with our children's unique needs, interests and learning styles. This approach fosters a love of learning, encourages critical thinking, and nurtures individual talents and passions.
- I believe that imposing the Australian National Curriculum on homeschooling families would be counterproductive and would only serve to exacerbate the issues of children falling through the gaps in the traditional education system.

Homeschooling is more about learning through a natural flow of interests which is exactly what the current curriculum lacks. My child is free to be a child, free to play, create, learn, and imagine without the limitations of the curriculum. Home educating works very well for us and many other families who feel that the Australian curriculum and the way that education is presented is quite frankly a broken system.

As a homeschooling parent, I am deeply invested in my child's education, and I work hard to provide a quality education for my child. As their parent, I know my child better than

anybody else. I know how they function to become the best version of themselves possible in an environment that understands them as individuals. I offer time and patience to nurture their personal love of learning and understanding.

This is done through a genuine love and passion for our children which offers the best way of educating for the best interests of our children.

There is an amendment in the bill that states homeschooling will only be granted if it is in the best interest of the child. Do you really believe that the government have more of a right to determine the best interests of our children, when we as their parents know them better than anybody else.

Many homeschooling parents, myself included, have chosen alternative educational pathways precisely because the traditional system does not meet the unique needs of our children. Our approach to education often extends beyond the confines of Math and English, embracing a holistic learning experience that incorporates diverse avenues of exploration and discovery. We love our kids and want the best for them and have specifically chosen not to delegate the parental responsibility to educate our children to someone else in a system we feel has failed them. The mental wellbeing of my child has returned exponentially since exiting the system, and they are thriving in our non-traditional educational environment as home learners.

We are not teachers and have not had 4+ years to learn how to teach ACARA, but we do have love, time and patience and the ability over the entirety of their lives to know how they learn best.

We as home educators must already meet a large variety of guidelines and reporting requirements that ensure our children are learning at home and are following a personalised plan that works for our children. We currently have the ability to choose which programs best fit our children, this proposed legislation however is based on restricting that flexibility.

Families are leaving the current system in droves in pursuit of a better, more personalised education for their children. Instead of punishing and making it more difficult for families to exit the system, perhaps the Minister should be investigating and shining a spotlight on why they are leaving the system in the first place.

This is the voice of my family who have been happily home educating for almost 3 years now and judging by the huge response to this proposed bill, I see that it is the voice of many other families too. Your job is to listen to the people and to deliver what we the people want, not to dictate through an overreach of government power. Please just do your job. It is so disheartening to see out-of-touch politicians wielding power that is neither wanted nor needed, particularly when it comes to imposing a one-size-fits-all approach to education.

Our children's education is not up for negotiation, and we will fiercely defend our right to

provide them with the best possible learning experience. Rest assured, we will be reaching out to our local MP to also voice our concerns and advocate for the preservation of homeschooling autonomy.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Regards

Emma Pain
(Homeschooling Parent and Advocate)

