

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 17
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Publication:
Attachments:
Submitter Comments:

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Homeschool Legislation Proposal For Queensland
Date: Monday, 11 March 2024 1:59:45 PM

To whom it may concern,

My name is Justine Hii, and I am a homeschooling parent writing to express my deep concerns regarding the homeschool legislation proposals in Queensland. I have been residing in South Australia for over five years now, but I am a former Queensland resident.

Allow me to share a bit about our homeschooling journey, as it provides a personal context to the concerns I am addressing. I am the parent of a 13-year-old son who is at Level 2 on the autism spectrum (ASD).

Our decision to embark on the homeschooling path was fueled by the realisation that mainstream schooling was unable to address my son's educational requirements. The environment and the inherent limitations of providing one-on-one assistance meant that he was advancing in grade levels without a corresponding progression in knowledge.

Upon starting homeschooling, we discovered significant gaps in his foundational knowledge. Basic skills such as timetables, double-digit addition and subtraction, and sentence writing were lacking—skills that are taught well before Year 5. If he does not have consistent repetition or revisiting of topics or areas, he will not retain these foundational skills. In response, we had to begin his math education from the Year 1 level, and I am pleased to report that he is now preparing to delve into Year 6 mathematics in the coming weeks.

The success of our homeschooling journey is attributed to the tailored environment we've created for him—one that caters to his learning style, with the crucial element of one-on-one assistance. This approach has allowed him to make remarkable strides in his education, overcoming challenges that were insurmountable in the traditional school setting. The contrast is stark: he now achieves more in a homeschooling environment that accommodates his needs, compared to days spent at school, where the overwhelming nature of the environment hindered his progress.

I share this personal story to emphasise the importance of preserving the freedom to homeschool in a manner that suits the individual needs of each child. Homeschooling has proven to be a transformative and empowering choice for my son, allowing him to thrive academically and personally.

As discussions around homeschooling legislation continue, I implore you to consider the diverse needs and circumstances of homeschooling families like ours. We value accountability and standards but seek understanding and flexibility to maintain an environment that fosters the best possible education for our children.

Here are our key concerns:

Inclusion of the Australian National Curriculum: We firmly oppose the incorporation of the Australian National Curriculum into our legislation. We believe in the value of tailoring our children's education to their individual needs and interests, and a one-size-fits-all approach does not work for all children.

Forced Reporting on Every Subject Area: We are troubled by the prospect of being

compelled to report and demonstrate 'educational progress' in every subject area. Homeschooling provides us with the flexibility to adapt our teaching methods to our children's unique learning styles, and a rigid reporting structure may hinder this flexibility.

Request for Reporting during Unregistered Periods: We strongly object to the Home Education Unit (HEU) having the authority to request reporting during times when we are not registered.

Implication of Needing to Prove Homeschooling's Best Interest: We reject any implication that we need to prove that homeschooling is in our child's best interest. As responsible and committed parents, we have chosen homeschooling based on careful consideration and believe it is our right to make decisions in the best interest of our children without unnecessary scrutiny.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your support in safeguarding the homeschooling freedom that has been instrumental in my son's educational success.

Sincerely,

Justine Hii

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