

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [Redacted]
To: [Education Employment Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Submission Concerning Bill to amend the Education (General Provisions Act) 2006
Date: Monday, 11 March 2024 4:25 08 PM

Dear Committee,

I wanted to share my concerns about the changes to the Education Act that are about to be tabled. As Director of Education Services at Australia's peak body for Montessori Centres and Schools, I have serious concerns about the changes to S217. My 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's 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', 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 four years of undergraduate or two years of postgraduate teaching to train them how to teach to ACARA?

In addition, 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.

Another tangential concern is that the change implies that parents are now required to give a written report on every subject in the plan. While I agree 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 8KLAs from the over 10,000 parents currently registered? That seems like an enormous amount of work.

Finally, we are concerned that in section 7, chapter 9 part 5, we now have to have home educating parents demonstrate that homeschooling is in the best interest of the child. I'm not sure 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 and it's not hard to see how it may impact private schools down the track.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

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Improving the Future*

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