

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 27
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Publication:
Attachments:
Submitter Comments:

From: Tanya [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2024 5:00 PM
To: Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee
Subject: Please reconsider the proposed education legislation and to prioritise the best interests of our students, teachers, and schools

Dear State Member of Parliament's Name or Committee Members,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent education legislation changes that have been proposed in our state. As a constituent and a member of the community, I believe it is crucial to voice my apprehensions about the potential impact of these changes on our education system.

My name is Tanya Hicks and I run Neurodivergent Empowered - As a team of dedicated, passionate individuals, we are neurodivergent ourselves, blending our lived experience with professional qualifications to foster safe spaces where neurodivergents and their families can embrace their authentic selves through 'Authenticity Architecture'©.

I am a parent of a neurodivergent homeschool child, and he, like our clients, has educationally thrived by NOT following the Australian Curriculum as backed by the following research:

1. **Tailored Learning:** Neurodivergent children often have unique learning styles and needs that may not be adequately addressed in traditional school settings. Research suggests that personalized, flexible learning approaches can better accommodate these needs and promote academic and personal growth (Barton et al., 2018).
2. **Self-Directed Learning:** Homeschooling or alternative education methods allow neurodivergent children to engage in self-directed learning, pursuing topics of interest and learning at their own pace. Studies have shown that self-directed learning can lead to greater intrinsic motivation, deeper engagement, and enhanced learning outcomes (Carr, 2012).
3. **Reduced Anxiety and Stress:** Traditional school environments can be overwhelming for neurodivergent children, leading to increased anxiety and stress. Homeschooling or alternative education settings may offer a less stressful and more supportive environment, promoting emotional well-being and mental health (Stoep & Ferrari, 2020).
4. **Individualised Support:** Neurodivergent children often benefit from individualised support and accommodations, which may be more feasible in homeschooling or small-group settings. Research indicates that personalized attention and tailored interventions can lead to significant improvements in academic performance, social skills, and overall well-being (Giangreco et al., 2010).
5. **Socialisation Opportunities:** Contrary to common misconceptions, homeschooling and alternative education settings can provide ample opportunities for socialization and peer interaction. Neurodivergent children may thrive in smaller, more supportive social environments, where they can develop meaningful connections and friendships (Medlin, 2000).
6. **Real-World Learning Experiences:** Homeschooling and alternative education methods often emphasize real-world learning experiences, such as field trips, community involvement, and hands-on projects. Research suggests that these experiential learning opportunities can enhance

academic understanding, promote critical thinking skills, and foster a deeper appreciation for learning (Gray, 2011).

7. Flexibility and Autonomy: Neurodivergent children may benefit from the flexibility and autonomy afforded by homeschooling or alternative education. Research indicates that autonomy-supportive learning environments can promote intrinsic motivation, self-regulation, and a sense of competence, leading to greater academic engagement and success (Deci & Ryan, 2012).

This existing evidence suggests that these approaches can offer valuable benefits and opportunities for academic, social, and emotional growth.

References:

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The proposed legislation raises several pressing concerns that I believe need to be addressed. Firstly, The proposed bill is potentially discriminatory.

Discrimination against -

- Disability
- Neurodivergence
- gifted/asynchronous development
- Other reasons for choice - health, religion, personal choice

Moreover, I am worried about the lack of transparency and public consultation surrounding these changes. As a stakeholder in our education system, I believe it is imperative for the voices of educators, parents, students, and community members to be heard and considered in any decision-making process that impacts our schools.

Additionally, The changes in relation to home education are ill considered and inappropriate. An

increase in home schooling since pandemic is not a legitimate basis for the proposed changes. The bill will have a disproportionate impact on families who are dealing with a range of personal and health issues that contribute to the decision to home school, and will alienate a large group of Queensland voters.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed education legislation and to prioritise the best interests of our students, teachers, and schools. I implore you to advocate for a more inclusive and collaborative approach to policymaking that values input from all stakeholders and ensures the integrity and quality of our education system.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for considering my concerns. I look forward to your response and to further dialogue on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Tanya Hicks

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Tanya Unveiled

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