

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 29
Submitted by: Penelope Springham
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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: I liaised tirelessly with my autistic and anxious sons school & what my child required was unable to be achieved by his old school - they made his conditions worse
Date: Monday, 11 March 2024 5:17:20 PM

Penelope Springham
[REDACTED]

Dear Committee Secretariat

I am writing to you with my concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the education bill that has recently been presented to parliament. As a home educating parent, I do not support these changes that have been introduced and I am worried about the impact that they will have on my family and the homeschooling community.

I am particularly concerned that as a parent of a neurodivergent child, I have spent hundreds of hours consulting with numerous specialists and allied health experts to determine how to best educate my child. We have liaised tirelessly with his/her former school to try to implement these recommendations. Unfortunately, what my child required was just not able to be achieved by their school. My child learns best with a project-led learning style and learning from home with pure flexibility and low demand! This enables him to regulate best and when he's able, he returns to his school work and it is magic to watch him become deeply immersed in his learning particularly when we tie it into his love of computers, electronics, coding etc.

Adhering to the Australian Curriculum would render it impossible for my child to be himself and for me to maintain his strengths and interest in technology. Mainstream school was awful to him and he hated how the teachers and students treated him. He hates the loop of the curriculum and found it distressing to keep returning to the classroom and lesson plans set out to him. It was a treadmill. A feedback loop that completely destroyed his remaining creativity and zest for life.

We Are Aboriginal. My mothers country is Gooreng Gooreng. Our babies weren't meant to be taken from us and doing this kind of learning for that many hours in a day. They would be learning from the tribal group and from cousins, uncles, aunties and more. We Are also sadly protected from DV. And Homeschool is our haven. Our happy place. It is without doubt the only learning style that supports my son's nervous system and its the only one he has connected with and engaged in.

But I am not a teacher! And even though I am not a teacher, I found the teachers couldn't even talk to him in ways that helped him

understand and engage properly with the curriculum, especially with his autism. So imagine if you forced kids like him to sit and follow the curriculum. You will give him mental health.

Researching and facilitating home education takes a lot of time and energy, but I have decided to follow this path with my child because I don't have to just respond to the Australian Curriculum. As a parent, it would be substantially easier to just enroll my child into distance education but distance Ed, is hard and heavy and onerous and is just school at home. It is not healthy for him. He cannot keep it up. It would be long term detrimental to he and I. Drawing on all my experience with the Traditional schooling and learning methods and following the Australian Curriculum, we would be unable to successfully do it.

How this directly affects my family.....

I'm concerned that the legislation has been introduced without proper consultation with current homeschooling families and it directly affects my family and we need you to take our feedback into consideration. For education to be inclusive of all students, I believe it is important to understand the reasoning behind the education decisions of the families who struggle the most to fit into mainstream education.

Ask me and I can show you the how and the why?

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. It is my hope that, going forward, this legislation can suit the needs of all students across Queensland. I look forward to hearing your response about this important issue.

Please don't take this away from the kids! It's the kids. It's the jarjums. Please.

Sincerely,

