

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by:



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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Subject: Reconsidering Homeschooling Legislation: Addressing Real Issues
Date: Tuesday, 12 March 2024 7:01:16 AM

Dear Di Palmer,

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.

I've only been a member of the homeschool community for term 4/5 of 2023 and now currently in 2024. We as a family endured 18 months of school refusal with my son and it finally reached a point where I was attending school with him for a whole term every day for as long as we could to keep him there to maintain satisfactory attendance for the Qld Education Dept. The stress and trauma this caused was long lasting and my son became suicidal. I made the decision to homeschool because of this and it took us 6 months to recover, and my son is still recovering. While we attempted school the Australian Curriculum was overwhelming for him and although he was attending school he wasn't learning as his anxiety levels were so high he was in flight mode the whole time.

So upon hearing that you see it's a good choice to make all homeschoolers in Qld follow the national curriculum absolutely scares me, one for the fact that it will bring extra stress upon my child who struggles daily to just function and two it takes away that chance parents have to use flexible learning plans that they can adjust daily to suit their individual child's needs. My child's needs vary from day to day and week to week, he doesn't fit the normal picture that other kids who cope with day-to-day life exhibit, he is kind, smart, compassionate but socially and mentally struggles to live in a world where he doesn't fit, or more accurately doesn't fit him. These are children who don't fit in the Education Qld box and homeschool was their only other option to receive an education so they can become well rounded adults. None of the parents I know decided to homeschool because it was the easy option; they chose to homeschool as it was their very last option. I never pictured myself homeschooling one child while my other child successfully goes to school and handles it without a worry.

My second issue is the reporting on the wellbeing proposal, who will be doing this and if you require professional opinions to do so how can we possibly make this achievable. My son has been to psychologists, is on a mental health wellbeing plan through our GP and has been on the yearlong waiting list to see a pediatrician so he can be formally assessed with possible ASD amongst other things. The rabbit hole of information we are given has been a minefield in itself just trying to navigate how to get my child the help he needs. I'm still waiting after 2yrs to get him help. In saying that though, by homeschooling I have allowed him the time he needed to heal without the pressure of mainstream schooling, but he still struggles with ASD issues daily but can do so in the safety of his own home. I was with him while he rocked back and forth in the fetal position just trying to stay at school to fit the standard of attendance which we are all expected to achieve, it was distressing and how is that giving him an education?? We are now playing

catch up at home on all the months he missed because he was in shutdown at school trying to learn a curriculum that was way too overwhelming in an environment that absolutely petrified him. He is currently doing Science, English, Maths, Art and I will introduce Hass once his brain can handle it but the format in which he is learning is short, but it sinks in, and he can absorb the information and not feel overwhelmed. This is a very broad proposal that may end up being an absolute nightmare, any form of help and support for our kids is hard to access and extremely expensive and wait times are very extensive.

I know you think these proposals will benefit homeschooling children, but the reality is you're putting more pressure on children who are already struggling (and are still too young to regulate their own emotions), their parents and the staff at HEU Qld. I suggest that you either consult with parents of homeschooled children and reconsider your proposals as home education is our last saving grace in many families to conform with the education system and curriculum in Australia without being completely ostracized. Obviously, a lot of extra funding should be considered on the other side of all of this in regard to assessment providers and medical help for these kids as well as education for teachers and staff at schools to support the children who need that extra support if you want them to remain in the education system. This isn't a one solution fixes all issue, it has many branches of a tree that contribute to children needing to be homeschooled, so if you think making us all follow the Australian Curriculum is going to improve children education standards you are very misguided.

I thank you for your time and I hope you will reconsider your proposals as they are going to do a lot more damage than good.

Kind Regards

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