

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 45
Submitted by: Jay Lennon
Publication:
Attachments:
Submitter Comments:

Jay Lennon



12 March 2024

Tom Smith
WIN Tower
Cnr. Quay & Barolin Street
Bundaberg Qld 4670

Dear Mr. Smith

I am writing to express some concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the homeschooling legislation. As a home educating parent, I do not support these changes that have been introduced and I firmly believe that these changes would undermine the very reasons why many families including mine, have chosen homeschooling as the preferred mode of education for our children.

It is imperative that we engage in a thorough examination of the real issues prompting families to opt for homeschooling rather than simply enforcing rigid curriculum requirements. Delving into the underlying reasons why many families are choosing homeschooling in the first place. Homeschooling is chosen by many families for a variety of reasons; flaws in the system, failing to provide protection from bullying and safety for them and flexibility.

I am particularly concerned that it takes away a parent's fundamental right to home educate their child. If homeschooling families have to conform to the predetermined curriculum, then the benefits of homeschooling will be lost!

The essence of homeschooling lies in the freedom it affords children to learn in a manner that aligns with their individual interests, abilities and learning styles.

The number of people registered for home education in Queensland increased by nearly 200% in 2023. These statistics speak for themselves.

I believe it is crucial to highlight the positive impact that homeschooling has had on my children's love for learning and their preparation for the real world. The personalised learning approach, we have adopted has reignited their passion for learning and instilled in them newfound confidence in their abilities. Through homeschooling, my children are not only acquiring academic knowledge but also developing essential life skills and values that are essential for success. They are learning how to think critically, communicate effectively, deal with conflict, adapt to new situations; all skills that will serve them well beyond the confines of a classroom.

My children had extreme difficulty trying to follow the Australian Curriculum. Having autism and suffering from severe anxiety. We realised the high quality learning experiences we could provide at home, far surpassed what was being offered within the boundaries of a traditional curriculum.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to carefully reconsider the proposed homeschooling legislation and instead focus on supporting families in providing a rich and diverse educational experience tailored to the needs of each child.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for considering my concerns. It is my hope that, moving forward, this legislation can suit the needs of all students across Queensland.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Jay Lennon