

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 52
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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Attachments:
Submitter Comments:

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Submission for proposed Bill
Date: Tuesday, 12 March 2024 10:49:49 AM

I am writing to include my submission for review to the committee and to parliament. I am a homeschooling parent and I do not support the proposed changes. Home educators tailor individualized learning plans for each homeschooled child to ensure they take into account each child's individual learning style, their learning needs, medical and behavioural needs. My child has a lifelong chronic illness. He already does 6 subjects and we combine subjects to condense the workload such as STEM and Humanities. He gets tired easily and under the proposed changes he would be forced to do 8 subjects per year instead of 6. He physically cannot manage 8 subjects per year without his health deteriorating.

I already meet all legislative home education planning and reporting requirements. In fact I and thousands of other homeschoolers now have to take more time out of our day to advocate for our families needs as we are under attack by our own so called "representatives". I have spent my entire life advocating for my child and will continue to do so. This proposed legislation is not in children's best interests, it takes away a parents fundamental right to home educate their child. And it proposes we need to "prove" home education is in our child's best interests. Who gets to decide this for us? The very school system that failed our children?

My son was sent home 4 days out of 5 a week, for months on end the school taught him nothing and simply said "he's too sick, take him home". The Australian curriculum is too rigid and very out of date. It is not fit for purpose and does not promote diversity or inclusivity for diverse learners. In fact many children had to leave the school system and their educators had to dump ACARA because their childrens disability meant it was not possible for their child to meet the requirements of the curriculum. 61% of Qld homeschoolers identify as having a disability or medical condition. They leave schools due to the school system neglecting, abusing them or they have been bullied at school.

With Distance education schools following the curriculum so closely they are unable to individualize learning plans or adjust a child's learning level to suit a child's specific needs. Also distance education often involves a higher workload then mainstream school and is not suited to children with chronic or palliative health conditions nor for neurodiverse learners. The added invasive and punitive reporting and planning criteria in this bill will take away valuable time I have to spend with my children and takes away time I have to ensure they are receiving a high quality education. How about leave home educators alone to continue the fantastic job we are already doing, and leave us to continue to utilize a system that currently works. If it's not broken, don't fix it.

I also feel forcing untrained parents to take on a job that teachers spend 6 years studying at University to do, devalues the teaching profession. I am not formally trained to link learning activities to the Australian curriculum. And why would the government pay teachers if they can force parents to do this job for free through fear and intimidation? My job is not to meet continuously stringent red tape requirements for this government. My job is to support my child's learning needs to the best of my ability. If governments want parents to act more like teachers and follow the Australian curriculum should we not also receive proper funding and a wage? I believe home educators save the government upwards of \$22,000 per homeschooled child. And that's just in essential funding, for which we receive nothing.

Kind regards,



[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: RE: Submission for proposed Bill
Date: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 10:35:28 AM

Please add the following sections to my submission,

My other child who was in mainstream school is now 16, in year 3 he was feeling so stressed and pressured by the Naplan testing he was vomiting in the school toilets at lunch, his father was deployed overseas to Iraq that year. He had 2 teachers and one of his teachers was bullying him because he could not sit still quietly in the classroom, he needed time to move around and work at his own pace. But of course the teacher blamed him for being disruptive. He had been checked and proven not to have ADHD by a child psychiatrist at age 6. So we don't know why he continued to be singled out by only certain teachers. Year 4 wasn't much better, he was being bullied at school by other kids and when he did stick up for himself he was told simply they punish all parties, the bullies and the victim equally. So the school was punishing him for not fitting in essentially.

We then moved to Victoria for my husband's work for 2 years, I saw the committee hearing the other day. It appears the Queensland Labor government claim they want to bring Queensland in line with other states like Victoria and they claim Victoria follows yearly reporting and the Australian curriculum. This is a lie, this is not correct. We were registered as homeschooling in Victoria for 2 years. You have to teach 8 key learning areas but they only review 10% of families each year and your family is exempt from reporting for 2 years after that. They also only review 1 child per family and you do not need to show progress has occurred. You simply need to write a report of where the child is at and how learning opportunities were provided. I was in the first batch of reviews (yes lucky me) the first year we moved to Victoria in 2018 and I passed. The children learnt in Victoria for 2 years without their plans being linked to the Australian curriculum, as this is not a requirement in Victoria.

The recommendations of this bill that home educators need to provide yearly reports and plans linked to ACARA and show that the child has made progress in all 8 key learning areas is unfair on the parent and the child. And is much stricter and goes way beyond the existing laws of any Australian state. This bill attacks a person's fundamental right to choose how their child is educated. And leads the way to the closure of any non public school. Because, if they can take our rights away they can take away the rights of private schools too. And Private schools will be next on the chopping board.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 26 states:

"Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children"

I also note this bill appears to be in contravention to the Human Rights Act: Discrimination. And the federal Disability Standards for Education Act 2005 states:

3.4 Reasonable adjustments

(1) For these Standards, an adjustment is reasonable in relation to a student with a disability if it balances the interests of all parties affected.

Note Judgements about what is reasonable for a particular student, or a group of students, with a particular disability may change over time.

(2) In assessing whether a particular adjustment for a student is reasonable, regard should be had to all the relevant circumstances and interests, including the following:

- (a) the student's disability;
- (b) the views of the student or the student's associate, given under section 3.5;
- (c) the effect of the adjustment on the student, including the effect on the student's:
 - (i) ability to achieve learning outcomes; and
 - (ii) ability to participate in courses or programs; and
 - (iii) independence;
- (d) the effect of the proposed adjustment on anyone else affected, including the education provider, staff and other students;
- (e) the costs and benefits of making the adjustment.

Another key thing mentioned at the committee hearing was the lie that homeschooling increased due to social media fads and the uptake of anti authoritarianism due to covid. This is incorrect. We attempted to resettle our children into school during covid and I worked throughout covid despite the risks and my children attended mainstream school as able for over 2 years. Our entire family is vaccinated against covid. We moved back to Queensland in 2020 and I pulled the children out of school to homeschool again in 2022. I have previously stated the reasons being medical (the school were unable to manage my child's physical health conditions and so sent him home 4 days out of 5 an hour after dropping him off) and due to this the school denied him an education, we tried Distance education and the workload was so heavy that my then 10 year old ended up in hospital with chest pains 3 times due to the stress of trying to follow a curriculum linked education.

. My older child who was in high school was suffering bullying on a daily basis and again like when he was in primary school they would punish the victim as well as the bully. I had hoped after years outside of the Queensland schooling system it had improved, however it has only gotten worse. My teenage son is not a rebel or a trouble maker, he was a straight A student in the Global Leaders Academy, boys choir, the school band and the Creative Arts Academy. But due to subpar education policies and the school being badly run my gifted and talented teenager was denied the opportunity to continue to participate in these activities he very much enjoyed, at a school he was forced to leave because due to bullying it was no longer safe for him to attend.

I picked my sad and deflated children up from a broken education system and individualised plans to suit their needs. I did this fully without the Australian curriculum. My 16 year old is now a happy, well adjusted teenager, he chose to return to Distance Education for year 11 and 12 because he is thinking about joining the ADF. He produces electronic music, play piano by ear, he sings, he is currently heavily involved in both sound and music production, in his spare time he volunteers in the community and is looking for his second job. Later on he hopes to study a Masters in Music at University (when financially able).

My 12 year old no longer has chest pains trying to study, he completes a work load that aligns with his semi palliative diagnosis. A few weeks ago my 12 year old had open heart

surgery. He can't ever be 'fixed' so they operated on him with a procedure known as a bi directional Glenn, to give him the best quality of life possible for as long as possible. The surgeons and staff worked very hard and we are thankful. He had an extended stay in PICU he had a collapsed lung, tachycardia and his blood pressure collapsed following surgery. We nearly lost him. When he did move out of PICU onto a regular ward the hospital school staff visited DAILY. We mentioned our son was on high doses of morphine post surgery, had a medical certificate to exempt him from study and was already registered elsewhere with his own education plan. However unfortunately the hospital school employees continued to visit us on a daily basis, sometimes twice a day pushing us to enrol in their public system, uninvited and it bordered on harassment. I was forced to request the nurse bar them from visiting. My son is now back home, happy, intelligent, he is very creative as this is something we have always encouraged. He loves drawing, digital art, designing things on Minecraft, he loves languages especially Spanish and hes really good at it. He also loves designing and building things especially with woodwork.

It appears as if the Queensland Labor government are attempting to portray homeschoolers as anti-authoritarian and anarchist. None of this is the case, my husband diligently served his nation in the Australian defence forces for 20 years including multiple deployments and exercises. We are all vaccinated and we all complied with the rules during covid. Even when they seemed harsh or overreaching. But to mess with the fundamental rights of a parent to choose their child's education and the fundamental rights of a child to learn in the way that suits them and at a pace and level that suits them is biased and discriminatory.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

On Thu, Mar 14, 2024 at 9:22 AM, [REDACTED]

wrote:

I agree with the submission being published, I would prefer my name be withheld so my submission is not misused or abused by the government later on against me in some way. As disabled children are very fragile and the system is very discriminatory against them. I resent the submission with my phone number.

[REDACTED]

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

On Thu, Mar 14, 2024 at 9:15 AM, Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee

<EETSC@parliament.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Good morning