

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 57
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To Whom It Concerns,

My name is Joelene, I am a mother and home educator to my 4 beautiful children.

I wanted to write to you today in relation to the **Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024**. I have great concerns about some of the proposed changes to home education in Queensland that are mentioned in this bill.

First and foremost, with regards to the following found in clause 68:

68 Amendment of [s 217](#) (Standard conditions)

(1)[Section 217](#)(1)(b)—

omit, insert—

(b)the educational program used for the child’s home education must—

(ii)be consistent with an approved education and training program;

(5)

[Section 217](#)—

insert—

(3)In this section—

approved education and training program means—

(a)the national school curriculum (known as the Australian Curriculum)—

(i)developed and administered by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority established under the *Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority Act 2008* (Cwlth), section 5; and

(ii)published on the authority’s website;

With respect, I strongly disagree with amending legislation to say that home education programs MUST be consistent with the Australian Curriculum developed and administered by the ACARA. My reasons are as follows:

- We enjoy family learning. It is a great opportunity for togetherness and to follow a topic of interest in depth. I have always made accommodations with respect to each child’s age and abilities. Following ACARA would render this special time most difficult with each child expected to be studying many different topics at the same time.
- We enjoy following our interests. I have found that my children learn best when they are engaged with a topic. Most often this is born from a curiosity in the moment, a random thought and especially life experiences. These magical moments do not occur when following a prescribed course of learning where a specific outcome is expected.
- We are rather eclectic in our learning style, we glean from many teaching philosophies such as Montessori and Charlotte Mason. The best of these methods is simply not present within the Australian Curriculum.

- There are so many fantastic resources available from all over the world! What a shame it would be to restrict my children's learning to what is available in one region. It would seem counterintuitive to providing a quality education.

In saying this I have consulted the Australian curriculum in the past and make note of what is being taught to school-based peers. However, I often find that the content is unnecessary, not applicable, or quite frankly tedious to a home education lifestyle.

Home education is an amazing and beautiful opportunity to learn and explore without constraints. It allows the building of passions and the expression of individuality. It is thinking outside the box, making wonderful discoveries and learning something new.

The proposed changes to legislation would take all of that away and quell the spirit of home education.

Another area I wanted to comment on was again in clause 68 - section 217(1):

(ba) a parent of the child must give the chief executive a written report—
(i) for the period the child is registered for home education; and
(ii) in relation to each subject or learning area that is part of the educational program used for the child's home education;

The following questions arise:

- Currently the registration period is 12 months, is this also to change? Could a family submit a plan/report for 2 years at a time? Who would determine this?
- With regards to reporting on each subject or learning area; this seems excessive and time wasted for both home educating parents and the chief executive.
- Is there any reason to believe that the current system is not functioning? We are already submitting a plan and a report to the chief executive for approval. Any question of quality is surely being addressed during this process.
- The Home Education Unit already faces long response times to submitted plans/reports. It is not likely that increasing the reporting requirements will provide any benefit to either HEU staff or to patient parents.

I ask that you allow me to continue to deliver a quality education to my children, suitable to their individual needs, using a variety of resources from diverse locations as I see fit.

Respectfully yours,
Joelene