

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 59
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Submitter Comments:

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13 March 2024

Dear Representative,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent education legislation changes that have been proposed in our Queensland. As a Grandparent and educator, I strongly believe it is imperative to voice my apprehensions about the potential impact of these changes on our education system.

I have been involved in my granddaughter [REDACTED] home education since my daughter and her husband realised the school system was not meeting her educational needs. This became very apparent as [REDACTED] became withdrawn, resistant and simply not wanting to attend school. As are most children, [REDACTED] is an individual, having special needs and ways of learning, these needs were not being met in fact it took us some time to persuade her reading was something she would enjoy. Fortunately, she has three adults who are all willing and able to work with her and she has achieved much in her home environment, which includes a multi-faceted approach to education.

For this reason, I was extremely disappointed to learn of the proposed changes to the existing legislation regarding education.

My concerns regarding the changes are addressed below. I have also attached a summary of the proposed changes for your reference.

PLAN:

The statement regarding use of National Curriculum in some way is too loose; what does 'in some way mean'?

Personal observation tells me that the curriculum is designed for the average child, it does not cater for individual needs, learning styles, level of interest or learning capacity.

Nor do I consider the National Curriculum necessarily focus on the most beneficial outcomes for students: not all are designed to be academics or white-collar workers.

PLAN & REPORT

We have been dealing with the HEU Team, who are trained in their field. Why then do others, seek to overrule this system – I consider this poor policy when we employ trained personnel and then micro-manage them and restrict their ability to do their jobs.

The insistence that all subjects must be covered at all levels is unreasonable. It is obvious to me that the schools themselves, while presenting the curriculum are unable to ensure all students are competent to even a basic standard. Examples of this would be the absolute misuse of the tenses of the verb 'DID' and the number of students who come through the school system who cannot read or write My personal experiences tell me, that even the most intelligent students can fail in the wrong environment, as it does not stimulate or engage them.

CONSULTATION PROCESS:

As an educator and grandparent, I was most certainly not consulted in any manner regarding these proposed changes. In fact, I have only just become aware of them, NOW is the time I should be consulted.

My personal experiences tell me, that even the most intelligent students can fail in the wrong environment, as it does not stimulate or engage them. As stated earlier we all have different, styles, needs, interests and capacity, who better than the person educating the child, to recognise the most suitable 'learning environment' for that particular student. Families that home school do so because they are familiar with the needs, both physical and emotional, of their own children.

Many have been forced into the decision to home school, because of the bullying and toxic learning environment in some schools. Sadly, I can personally cite instances where I have seen bullying and damaging behaviour from teachers themselves.

RESPONSES TO SHOW CAUSE:

14 days is not a reasonable time frame for show cause responses.

Australia Post sets a 3 - 7-day delivery guarantee on its surface mail delivery service, emails can be lost or misdirected. This would then place impossible expectations on show cause responses, especially for those living outside metropolitan areas.

CHANGE IN REGISTRATION APPROVALS:

The proposed changes will only serve to increase the workload of HEU staff as all registrations will need to be permanent then cancelled rather than granted for the specific period required. Noting here that response times from Centalink are often months, not weeks.

WORKLOAD:

Parents who choose to home-school rarely take the decision lightly, it is usually done after much soul- searching and consideration. There is a considerable increase in workload, commitment and time required and it can often be very onerous. Increases in the reporting requirements will only serve to create greater stress as many will struggle to meet the greater expectations.

My belief is the proposed changes will not create any improvements, they will only serve to increase the workload of the HEU Team and the families working to provide the best for their children.

I request that you, in your official capacity, act to oppose these ill-conceived changes that will have a detrimental impact on a significant number of Queensland children and their families.

Yours Faithfully

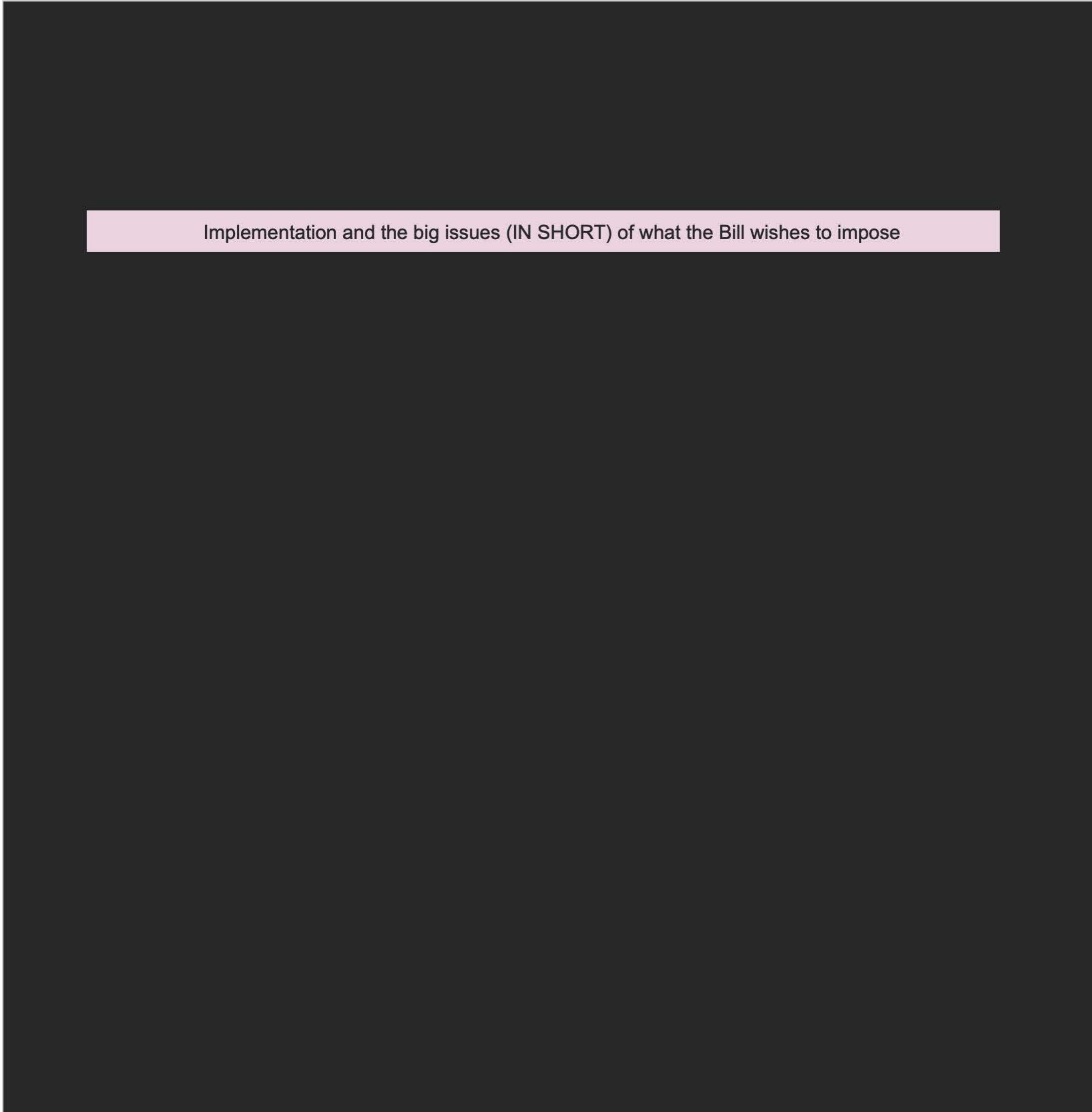
Megan Wray



Outline

- The BIG issues in short and IN O...

FULL Explanation and compariso...



Implementation and the big issues (IN SHORT) of what the Bill wishes to impose

