

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Against Legislation Proposal for Qld Homeschool
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Charmaine Schembri

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11/03/2024

To The Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee,

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation, particularly the inclusion of the Australian National curriculum, mandatory reporting requirements for educational progress, and the potential implications on our homeschooling autonomy and freedom. As a Victorian homeschool parent, any changes to legislation in Queensland will eventually come around to impact my family and I, therefore, I am writing to stop these changes happening in Queensland.

As a dedicated homeschooling parent, I firmly believe in the importance of providing a personalised and flexible education that meets the unique needs and interests of my children. The Australian National curriculum, while suitable for some students, may not align with the values, beliefs, or educational goals of every homeschooling family. Mandating its adoption would undermine the autonomy and freedom that homeschooling provides, limiting our ability to tailor our children's education to their individual needs and learning styles.

Furthermore, imposing strict reporting requirements on homeschooling families would add unnecessary burdens and bureaucracy, infringing upon our right to educate our children in the manner we see fit. The implied need to constantly demonstrate educational progress in every subject area is not only unrealistic but also fails to recognize the holistic nature of homeschooling, which goes beyond traditional academic measures to encompass social, emotional, and practical skills development.

Additionally, the prospect of the Home Education Unit (HEU) being able to request reporting for times when we are not registered raises serious concerns about privacy and intrusion into our family life. Homeschooling is a deeply personal and family-centered educational choice, and we should not be subjected to undue scrutiny or interference from external authorities.

Most importantly, the implication that we need to prove that homeschooling is in our child's best interest undermines the fundamental trust and responsibility that parents have in making educational decisions for their children. As dedicated and committed parents, we have carefully considered and chosen homeschooling as the best option for our children, and we should not be made to feel that our choice is constantly under scrutiny or evaluation.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider these proposed changes and to work collaboratively with homeschooling families to preserve our rights, freedoms, and autonomy in educating our children. Homeschooling is a valid and valuable educational choice that deserves respect and support from policymakers and educational authorities.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important issue. I hope that you will take our concerns into account and advocate for policies that uphold the rights and freedoms of homeschooling families.

Sincerely,

Charmaine Schembri