

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by: Aneeta Hafemeister
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Inquiry into Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission from Aneeta Hafemeister

I am writing to you regarding the proposed education legislation that was introduced to the Queensland parliament on the 6th of March 2024.

https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/whole/html/bill.first/bill-2022-052?fbclid=IwAR1hZpIH9dxzn3QS7Jab-G4XshmLcX1MbiTjWMn_KrhFYb67bq15CvrMgg

Our family has been homeschooling in Queensland since 2010. After thorough research into our educational options homeschooling was the best choice for our children. We have been very happy with this decision and our children have thrived with the flexibility that homeschooling provides.

Our children are able to deeply explore their subjects of interest, much more than a set curriculum allows. They are able to move through their work at their own pace, which ensures they have a good understanding of concepts and also means boredom is not an issue. The legislation changes proposed would enforce adherence to the national curriculum, which severely narrows the scope and depth of potential learning areas for children.

The Australian Curriculum is designed to be delivered to large classrooms of children, it is not suitable for a tailored education setting where there is ample resources and time available for each student.

My children have had varied interests, and their learning journeys have all been very personal and for that reason very effective. My oldest child (19) is currently studying in San Francisco. My second child (18) is working for a rural veterinarian and studying to become a vet nurse. Their homeschooling experience gave them the confidence and independence to undertake the future endeavours they are interested in.

The proposed legislation seems to be focused on curriculum at all costs, regardless of student outcomes. With the vast swathe of educational resources available today it seems ridiculous to narrow students learning options to a shallow, standardized curriculum.

It would be helpful if perhaps the education department did a review of why so many parents are feeling the need to homeschool and pinpoint what the problems are in the current education system. Making things more prescriptive for homeschooling parents seems to be the wrong way to go about fixing the current issues with schools.

There is wording in this legislation that is also very concerning.

(3)[Section 7](#)—
insert—

- (da)for chapter 9, part 5, home education of a child or young person should be provided in a way that—
 - (i)is in the best interests of the child or young person taking into account their safety and wellbeing; and
 - (ii)ensures the child or young person receives a high-quality education;

Who would define what is “in the best interests of the child.”? What defines a high-quality education? There are many students currently in school who are being badly failed by the system, yet they would be considered as having a “high-quality education” simply by attending school, regardless of their academic outcomes.

This legislation will make it more onerous for homeschooling parents for reporting purposes, which is time that could be better spent with their children. The current registration and reporting system are working well. There is no need to change it.

The lack of consultation with the homeschooling community is a problem. This needs to be remedied immediately to allow the thousands of families impacted to have input into legislation that directly affects them in the most important ways.