

## Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 144  
**Submitted by:** Jessica Hanrahan  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the education legislation changes that have recently been proposed in our state. As a constituent and active member of the community, I believe it is crucial to voice my apprehensions about the potential impact of these changes on our education system, and more specifically, my own children. I am a homeschooling parent of two primary aged students, with a third to formally join the ranks in a few years. Prior to becoming a mother, I built a career in business services which began in an allied health clinic working with differently abled children - those formative years of my career have shaped the choices I have made in work, life, and now parenting. The proposed legislation raises several concerns that I believe need to be addressed before it can proceed. First and foremost, the changes around the wording requiring me to justify my choice to homeschool to administrative staff is absolutely condescending, and frankly an abuse of power. This change would imply that a government worker who has never met my family nor understands our learning needs and unique psychology has better discernment over the welfare of my children than I do. As a mother of neurodivergent children, I can assure you it is a daily practice of planning, witnessing, course correcting and refining to ensure their complex needs are met. It is a labour of love, one that I have actively and willingly chosen every day for the past seven years, and will continue to choose in the best interest of my children. It is very clear from the outcry of thousands of families state wide that these changes were proposed with no regard for the proper consultation process. The amendment requiring home educating families to adhere to ACARA is a mistake and lowering the standard to which our children are educated. It is currently mid-March. In two and a half months, we have covered the topics of Australia, Transport, and Religion with numerous activities covering reading, writing, comprehension, spelling, art, craft, statistics, graphing, problem solving, geography, biomimicry, social science, environmental studies, demographics, history, indigenous studies, aviation, home economics and coding. Not to mention our daily mathematics schedule. Working strictly to the Australian curriculum does not allow my diverse learners to remain engaged and enthusiastic, or have any sense of autonomy over their learning journey. I already have the ability to choose and incorporate sections from ACARA to fit our needs, it does not benefit my children to adhere to a checklist designed for the classroom. Rather, it dilutes our learning experience. If ACARA is in fact the gold standard by which we are to educate our children, can the Committee comment on the training and funding available to parents to bring our skillset in line with the 100,000+ teachers in Queensland who receive paid ACARA training days and are yet unable to deliver the national curriculum in a way that suits diverse learners? Furthermore, why is the reporting system becoming more onerous for Queensland home educators when an extensive system is already in place? Currently an annual report contains individual progress across three subject areas, including work samples, and discusses teaching methods, learning environment, pivot points, and documentation. This far exceeds report cards issued to public school students. If an objective of the Home Education review was to reduce the administrative workload of the HEU, how is this achieved by increasing the reporting requirements? In light of these concerns, I strongly urge you to reconsider the amendments as they stand and help us to continue to provide our children with the high quality education they deserve. I look forward to the Committee's response to these points of query and very real concerns of our many homeschooling families across the state. Sincerely, Jessica Hanrahan