

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 165
Submitted by: Kim Druve
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: See attachment
Submitter Comments:

Dear Parliamentary Committee

I am writing to you with my concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the education bill that has recently been presented to parliament. As a home educating parent, I do not support some of these changes that have been introduced and I am worried about the impact that they will have on my family and the homeschooling community.

I am particularly apprehensive about defining “high quality education” as being consistent with the Australian Curriculum and having to report on every subject. Home Education Unit advised of a review in 2022 and they made note of the workload involved in reporting; both by parents in preparing reports and by HEU in marking reports. Their recommendation was to simplify reporting, not make it more involved.

As an active participant in the homeschool community, we participate regularly in multi-age learning activities. We capitalise on instruction and lessons from experts in their fields. Sometimes, this sparks interests and passions within our children and we are able follow up by exploring an area of interest. Enforcing the Australian Curriculum will severely limit this opportunistic learning and stifle the ability for us to form multi-age groups as the topics they will be investigating would be dictated according to their year level.

Parents often have multiple children home schooling of different ages, and are able to teach some unit studies (for example: space or geology) as a group lesson, with older children exploring more deeply or answering harder questions. If we must adhere to the Australian Curriculum, each child will be on a separate program and will miss out on these group lessons. Homeschooling children often investigate areas of interest and are getting accepted into specialised courses because they have the chance to explore more deeply than the curriculum allows. Other children require more time to understand a concept and will be pushed onto the next area of learning before they are ready, in order to meet reporting requirements.

I’m greatly concerned that we will still have to show academic progress in our reports, but will be unable to cater to the level our children are at. How do you show academic progress when your children are far above or below the content being taught?

I’m worried that the legislation has been introduced without proper consultation with current homeschooling families and I hope that you will take my feedback into consideration. For education to be inclusive of all students, I believe it is important to understand the reasoning behind the education decisions of the families who struggle the most to fit into mainstream education.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. It is my hope that, going forward, this legislation can suit the needs of all students across Queensland. I look forward to hearing your response about this important issue.

Sincerely

Homeschooling parent