

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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To: Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the recent education legislation changes that have been proposed in Queensland and their impact on my family as well as our homeschooling community.

As a long-term homeschooling parent of my two children, I am deeply disappointed by the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation, especially the requirement to follow the Australian Curriculum as the only way to provide “high quality” education.

National curriculum is designed for large classrooms in the mainstream school settings where the teachers don't have time and resources to provide individualised learning plans for each student. It prescribes the students to learn certain things at a certain age and is not taking into consideration student's interests, developmental readiness, or a zone of proximal development. Its content is overcrowded and at the same time very limiting. It suggests only surface level coverage of things rather than deep exploration of topics of the child's interest. While this way of learning might be suitable for neurotypical kids, it doesn't work for many neurodivergent kids (autistic, ADHD, dyslexic, etc.).

Home-education, on the other hand, gives us the opportunity to explore a large variety of high quality educational options. In 1:1 settings we have more time and resources to organise education around our children's interests and preferences than classroom teachers. We adjust the program to our kids' learning styles and abilities and base it on their learning goals rather than external requirements. We make their education fun and engaging. We give them the opportunity to explore subjects of their interests in a deep meaningful way. We give our kids access to the world's best curriculums, classes and tutors based on their needs as well as passions. We make sure their environment is safe from drugs and bullying. Our kids have the opportunity to learn real life skills and explore future career option, at the same time being able to have normal childhood, having plenty of time for playing and creating good connections with siblings, other family members and pets.

For my daughter who has a rare disability affecting her mobility, causing a severe progressive vision impairment, sensory intolerances and other health conditions, but at the same time being intelligent and bright, homeschooling is a necessity, not an option. It is an opportunity to create a safe environment where she can thrive at her own pace and in her own unique way – the environment that the school system failed to provide for her.

Dear Committee Members, please hear us, experienced homeschool parents! The “old” system that is currently in place for homeschoolers in Queensland works well for us. We need to continue be able to choose from different learning styles and programs, and not to be limited to the Australian Curriculum and having to report on it as an only option. Instead of tightening the regulations around our choices, wouldn't it be better to address the issues in the mainstream school system that made us take our kids out in the first place?

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,



Long-term homeschooling parent of two.