Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Members of the 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 concerned about the introduction of the Australian Curriculum to homeschooling families. I have been homeschooling my eldest from the get-go – he is now 11 years old, healthy & thriving – and so I have met numerous home educating families over the years. Indeed, we made the decision – along with her mum - to home educate my youngest stepdaughter, from the age of 14, as she was falling further and further behind, due to learning difficulties associated with being on the autistic spectrum. The number of parents who chose to pull their child/ren from the system, to homeschool, because they were struggling with the Curriculum, is overwhelming. Children learn at their own pace, in their own style and in their own time – there is no "cookie cutter" Curriculum plan to accommodate every child. In addition, those parents who have pulled their children from the school system have no regrets! They see it in their child/ren's attitude, mood and demeanour – they are flourishing, learning at their own pace, with what works for them.

How this directly affects my family is that neither of my boys – ages 11 & 5 – fit the mould of a "sit down and learn" approach. They are their own person; they have their own interests, skills and passions, and this is where true learning lies. Children learn best when they are passionate about a subject; when they are immersed in real life – not when they are being forced to learn from a textbook, of topics that hold no interest to them.

I'm concerned 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.

With gratitude, Emma Davis.