


Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 209
Submitted by: 
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Attachments: See attachment
Submitter Comments:

Subject: Ensuring Support for Homeschooling Children with Disabilities: A Call for Equity

Dear Committee Members,

I write to you with a pressing concern regarding the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation and their impact on children with disabilities and special learning needs. As a homeschooling parent deeply committed to advocating for the rights of all children to receive a quality education, I urge the committee to consider the unique challenges faced by families of children with disabilities and to ensure that the proposed changes adequately support their educational needs.

It is no secret that many children with disabilities have struggled within traditional school settings, where resources and support may be insufficient or inaccessible. For these children, homeschooling often represents a lifeline—an opportunity to receive a personalized, tailored education that meets their individual needs and abilities.

However, the proposed changes risk further marginalising children with disabilities by imposing rigid curriculum requirements that may not be suitable or feasible for them. Many of these children may require alternative approaches to learning that focus on developing functional skills, fostering independence, and promoting inclusion within their communities.

I urge the committee to consider how the proposed changes will impact homeschooling children with disabilities who are unable to learn within the confines of a traditional curriculum. What provisions will be made to ensure that these children receive the support and accommodations they need to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally?

Furthermore, I implore the committee to recognise the invaluable role that homeschooling parents play in advocating for their children and providing them with the specialised support

they require. Rather than imposing top-down mandates, let us work collaboratively to develop policies that empower parents to make informed decisions about their children's education and ensure that all children, regardless of ability, have access to the resources and support they need to succeed.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to prioritise the needs of children with disabilities in the drafting of homeschooling legislation and to ensure that the proposed changes support their right to receive an appropriate and inclusive education.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

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Homeschooling Parent and Advocate

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Ensuring Support for Homeschooling Children with Disabilities: A Call for Equity
Date: Sunday, 24 March 2024 9:54:57 PM

24 March, 2024

The Committee

eetsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Members

I had made a submission previously (12 March). However, I wish to add some more details to my submission so here it is again:

I am writing to you with a pressing concern regarding the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation and their potential impact on children with disabilities and special learning needs. As a homeschooling parent deeply committed to advocating for the rights of all children to receive a quality education, I urge the committee to consider the unique challenges faced by families of children with disabilities and to ensure that the proposed changes adequately support their educational needs.

It is evident that many children with disabilities encounter significant difficulties within traditional school settings, where resources and support may be insufficient or inaccessible. My personal experience attests to this reality. Both of my daughters, who are neurodivergent and grapple with conditions such as autism, ADHD, anxiety disorders, and learning difficulties, found mainstream schooling to be profoundly challenging. Despite the best efforts of their teachers, the conventional curriculum failed to accommodate their individual needs, resulting in widening gaps in knowledge and escalating levels of frustration.

One of my daughters, in particular, has endured significant trauma within the school environment, to the extent that she developed a five-year writing refusal as a direct consequence of an incident with a teacher. It was only through the transition to homeschooling that she found the conducive environment necessary for her to overcome this barrier and recently wrote a complete letter for the first time this year. Doctors have expressed doubts about their academic improvement prospects, yet, through a strength-based approach tailored to their unique learning styles and needs, remarkable progress has been achieved.

The proposed changes to homeschooling legislation risk exacerbating the challenges faced by children with disabilities by mandating adherence to rigid curricular standards that may not align with their learning needs. Forcing neurodivergent children to engage with subjects that do not resonate with their interests or provide practical life skills can overwhelm them and impede their access to genuine education—education that fosters curiosity, creativity, independence, and emotional well-being.

I implore the committee to consider the far-reaching consequences of these proposed changes on the educational outcomes and overall well-being of children with disabilities who rely on homeschooling as a lifeline. Rather than imposing blanket mandates, I urge you to collaborate with homeschooling parents and stakeholders to develop policies that empower families to make informed decisions tailored to the unique needs of their children.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to prioritize the needs of children with disabilities in the formulation of homeschooling legislation and to ensure that any changes made support their right to receive an appropriate and inclusive education. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Homeschooling Parent and Advocate