

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

**Submission No:** 219  
**Submitted by:** Justine Miller  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

I would like to note my concerns about the changes to the Education Act that are about to be tabled. I have been home educating my child since 2022 and I have serious concerns around the legislation requiring parents to teach to the ACARA curriculum. In our home, each night, I prepare and cook varied and balanced dinners for our family, based on fresh seasonal produce, in accordance with their likes and nutritional requirements. The Government telling me to teach to ACARA is akin to them telling me to ditch home cooked meals and serve up a mass-produced McDonalds meal each night instead. Additionally, parents are not trained in ACARA's curriculum; it is clearly stated in the parents' section of the curriculum that the Australian Curriculum is for teachers in schools to ensure consistency across the country. Furthermore, if parents can be asked to drop everything and teach to the ACARA documents, why do teachers spend 4 years undergraduate or 2 years postgraduate teaching them how to teach to ACARA? Other concerns are that the senior subject syllabus documents which are identified in the Act are driven towards students sitting standardised testing in the senior phase of learning. If homeschooling families aren't sitting standardised testing, they would be incapable because they cannot have their teaching plans approved by ACARA in any event, this requirement seems moot. Also, there are so many pathways to higher education and employment now that obtaining an ATAR through standardised testing just isn't necessary for all students. Another concern I have is that the change implies that parents are now required to give a written report on every subject in the plan. While I currently submit an annual Plan and Report, and I agree that parents should be providing a report to ensure all young people in Queensland receive a high-quality education, can the department handle the volume of reports on 8 KLAs from the over 10,000 parents currently registered? That seems like an enormous amount of work. Let's be honest, most of the people responsible for home education are women, who already have so many important responsibilities, this just adds a massive and unnecessary burden of paperwork onto her already stretched schedule. The people having to read this paperwork are most likely women working at HEU for a fairly modest annual income, and this will increase their workload enormously. So yet again the system gets stacked against women. I am also concerned that it now states that home educating parents demonstrate that homeschooling is in the best interest of the child. My child attended regular school for 7 years and the system was destroying their love of learning. They now receive an individualised, bespoke education focused on strengths, passions and interests. There is no way a school with hundreds of students, overworked and underpaid teachers, with class sizes of 25+ dealing with very complex emotional, behavioural and learning challenges can provide the same level of education I can for my child.