

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Committee Secretary
Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee
Parliament House
George Street
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Respected Committee Secretary and other members of the committee,

I am deeply concerned with the proposed legislation that will not only negatively impact our homeschooling journey, but also have a detrimental impact on my kids. Therefore, let it be noted that **I strongly object to all the proposed changes to homeschooling in Queensland.**

I LOVE the fact that my wife homeschools our children, and I am extremely grateful for the effort she puts in and the immense sacrifice she makes daily to bless our children with the best education.

My kids love that they're homeschooled. They love that their mum is their homeschool teacher, they love the way they get to learn, they love the freedom they have to learn, they love the variety of ways they get to learn, and they love that they can learn at their own pace, while being together as a family.

How do I know?

Because I work from home and daily get to witness what it takes to homeschool well.

I want to raise a few points of concern for the committee to consider.

Homeschooling Is in The Best Interest of Our Children

Because we are homeschooling our children, we can give them the attention they deserve and need, which I know that teachers in a school system would be unable to. Don't get me wrong, we have the highest regard and respect for teachers and hate the fact that our teachers are overworked, underpaid, and then blamed for what is a failure in the education system itself.

In a recent post (<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/e2zo4tur7Z5Jw4zs/?mibextid=oFDknk>) Di Farmer acknowledged that many kids struggle at school and that nearly \$300 million have been allocated to alternative schooling for students disengaged from education. **I and many others can tell you that homeschooling is the greatest alternative schooling option there is!**

My wife and I know our children better than anyone else and we can observe firsthand how much they love the fact that they are homeschooled. My wife is an excellent teacher and because she is also their mother, she can provide a structured environment that is also loose so that while we are cultivating discipline in them, they are also not stifled. Contrary to what some people might think, the vast majority of homeschooling parents (including my wife and I), put a lot of thought to how we homeschool our children, ensuring that they receive a well-balanced education without hindering their creativity, uniqueness, and overall growth!

I am sad to say this but if we were forced to enrol our children in school, we could see them getting bullied, and I would never want my children to go through what I did.

Enforcing the ACARA Is a Bad Idea

Besides being an entrepreneur, I am also an educator, and have taught at the University level, at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), for several years. When I was at QUT, I saw

firsthand how poor the Australian National Curriculum is at preparing our young people for the real world. The vast majority of first-year students I came across, each one who I thought had great potential, were totally unprepared to take responsibility for themselves and discover the path they needed to take. They were aimless and without purpose, they just simply didn't know how to think for themselves or what to do.

My wife goes to incredible lengths to ensure that the subjects/material she covers with my children are challenging and engaging, and not only cultivates their minds, but nourishes their soul. My wife is able to tailor the education to match each of our children, ensuring that they are not only learning, but also enjoying the experience, even when the material can be challenging.

When I consider how my wife homeschools, not only do I have faith that my kids will grow up to be responsible adults, but I also have faith that no matter what challenges they'll face, they'll be well equipped to face it. Because of my wife's efforts to give our kids a rich education, I am certain they will be blessed for a lifetime.

I cannot say the same if we were forced to follow the Australian National Curriculum, that despite its claims to be customisable, is not designed to bring out the best in the individual child, because each child is unique and needs to be cared accordingly.

Please do not force my wife to write longwinded reports that no one is going to read, instead, please let her invest that time with my children so that she can continue to do what she does best, educating our children and equipping them for the future!

Concluding Remarks

God has blessed us with our children to care for, provide for and raise well. I believe homeschooling is one of the greatest ways that we as parents can fulfil our God given role.

If you ignore our legitimate concerns and push ahead with the proposed legislation, it will not only exasperate the problem that the government is trying to address, but it will also be incredibly detrimental to the wellness of our children, and quite simply, a violation of our God given rights as parents to raise our children in the best way possible. The government is ill equipped, incapable, and unqualified to raise our children, so please, let us as parents retain our rights to do that.

I sincerely hope that this committee and others in government will make every effort to sincerely engage with the homeschooling community and be open to learning how much effort, time and sacrifice homeschooling parents are putting in to bless their children.

I welcome questions from anyone, and I am willing to engage to discuss our concerns further.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Sincerely,
Srikanth A Nair