

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by: Jessica Dockray
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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Changes to Homeschooling Legislation
Date: Tuesday, 12 March 2024 8:43:52 AM

Jessica Dockray

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Dear Committee Members,

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 proposal regarding having to follow the ACARA curriculum and no longer "high quality learning", as we do not wish to replicate school as it is one of the main reasons we left mainstream schooling. I wish to uphold the right to home educate in the best needs of our children. Following their individual needs and interests to pave an individual way for their future. Too many years are wasted on being taught subjects or topics that don't add value to each and every child and that holds no interest for the child which in turn results in disengagement.

How this directly affects my family, is that leaving mainstream school was an easy choice for our 16yr old daughter, where she was a high achieving academic student to having panic attacks and not getting the support to understand the tasks and topics being learnt and falling behind and having incomplete or rushed work that was only just getting passed, to being overwhelmed with work that made no sense to her or wondering why she was even being taught it in the first place. Not being able to completely follow her chosen career path in subjects that she could choose, which left her not wanting to learn as it was leaving little interest for her to be there. Where now she is homeschooling, we can focus on heading and supporting her career path and tailor her learning specifically to that. We are noticing such a change in her, being happier within herself, having the self-confidence to shine in a way that hasn't been there for some years. Our 13yr old son who is currently still in mainstream as this is his choice, is disengaged in some subjects and being labelled a trouble and behavioural problem due to not understanding the work being taught and not having the individual support he needs and deserves. As there are too many children to teachers to get the "high quality learning" each child needs and deserves. The Australian curriculum isn't a one sizes fits all curriculum and there is very little room to being different while in mainstream schooling. What works for one student doesn't necessarily

work for another and even learning the curriculum needs to be taught and explained in different ways to some students, in which with our experience teachers have very little time to do.

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.

Sincerely,

Jessica Dockray