


Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by: 
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From: [REDACTED]
To: educationandyouthjustice@ministerial.qld.gov.au; [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Submission: Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.
Date: Tuesday, 12 March 2024 11:32:57 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you regarding concerns I have about the proposed changes to require home education families to follow the National Curriculum as outlined the *Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024*.

I know several home educating families, and can see the time, dedication, and skill they put into their children's education, including choosing or designing the appropriate curriculum. These are careful and considered choices families make, with much commitment to ensuring the best educational outcomes for their children. And this could not be more important given the challenges the State schooling system is experiencing in meeting children's learning needs, for example, addressing persistently low literacy rates. Meanwhile, the home educating families I know are excelling in this area while supporting the unique learning needs of their children.

One of the families I refer to is my sister's, who has a daughter with Autism. In her last year of primary school and first year of high school she endured relentless bullying. Over two years, she went from being a happy and confident child with decent grades to being non-verbal and having panic attacks most days at school. Both her primary and high schools were unable to address the bullying and provide appropriate support when she had panic attacks. Most alarmingly, this led to well-founded worries of her becoming suicidal. So my sister made the best choice for her daughter and chose to homeschool. No family makes this choice lightly. Since then, my niece has made a good recovery and has returned to the happy and confident girl she was. What's more, she is learning beyond the curriculum, as she is free to take her education further. For example, she is currently learning 4 languages in year nine, drawing upon her brain-based strengths of having a wonderful memory, retention, and attention to detail.

In this example alone we see how personalised learning is limited in a classroom, yet can excel in a home education setting. This is one of the strengths of home education, and families I know design (or choose) curriculum that suits the needs of their child/ren.

In what also appears to be a quiet erosion of long-term rights afforded to Qld parents, the Bill now states that home educating parents demonstrate that homeschooling is in the best interest of the child. How does that accord with parents' right to choose? After all, this requirement is unlikely to be part of the parents' requirements when they enrol their child in a private school – and we would hope the Government continues to support choice in education for Queenslanders.

These changes reflect unnecessary Government overreach. While at the same time reducing the capacity of home-educators to act in the best interests of their children. Impacting their day-to-day lives in significant and unnecessary ways. Further, it sets a precedent for intervention in

education choices, and I urge the Government to reconsider these changes.

Regards,

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