

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 254
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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Changes to Homeschooling Legislation
Date: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 11:35:48 AM

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 lack of consideration for the diverse needs of homeschooling families in the proposed legislation. Researching and facilitating home education takes a lot of time and energy, but we have decided to follow this path with our child because they just don't respond to the Australian Curriculum. As a parent, it would be substantially easier to just enroll my child into distance education but we have already discovered that this method of learning would be detrimental to my child and our family. Drawing on our experience with traditional schooling and learning methods, we would be unable to successfully follow the Australian Curriculum.

Moreover, as a homeschooling family, we have tried using the Australian Curriculum to educate our child, both at school and at home. It just doesn't work for our child. To this date, we have been fortunate to have the flexibility to choose how we provide a high-quality education for our child, and our once struggling and disengaged child is now thriving.

Since embarking on our homeschooling journey, I have witnessed a remarkable transformation in my child's attitude towards education. The personalised learning approach we have adopted has reignited their passion for learning and instilled in them a newfound confidence in their abilities. Rather than merely memorizing facts and figures, they are actively engaged in exploring topics that spark their curiosity and pursuing knowledge in a way that resonates with them personally. Through homeschooling, my child is not only acquiring academic knowledge but also developing essential life skills and values that are essential for success in the real world. They are learning how to think critically, communicate effectively, and adapt to new situations—all skills that will serve them well beyond the confines of a classroom.

The essence of homeschooling lies in the freedom it affords children to learn in a manner that aligns with their individual interests, abilities, and learning styles. By imposing a mandated curriculum, these proposed changes would impede my children's autonomy and hinder their ability to pursue education in a way that best suits their needs.

Furthermore, enforcing a standardised curriculum fails to recognise the diverse interests and talents of homeschooling students. It overlooks the fact that every child is unique and may thrive in different subject areas or learning environments. By imposing rigid educational requirements, we risk depriving our children of the opportunity to pursue their passions and develop their full potential.

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,

Jacob Wagstaff

