

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

The proposals to change the rules around homeschooling in Queensland have been put forward without any consultation with the people who will be most affected by these changes - parents and the homeschooled children themselves. Nothing about us without us. Requiring homeschoolers to follow the national curriculum will make it almost impossible to homeschool most children if you are not a qualified teacher yourself. The government has not taken any responsibility for the reasons why so many of us homeschool. We did not choose to homeschool, but we had to because the Queensland education department has failed in its responsibility to support children with special needs. We attempted to get supports for our autistic highschooler for many months, and even tried distance education and then a catholic school. NONE of these options supported our neurodiverse child in any way. Homeschooling was our ONLY option to continue her education. She is now studying university level subjects. Homeschooling is currently flexible and customisable to the needs of the child to allow for disabilities or neurodivergence or giftedness. Requiring us to follow ACARA will strip all of that customisation away. The Queensland Government should instead invest in figuring out ways to support the families who wanted to have their child go to school and improving the schools so that these children can attend, and otherwise supporting homeschoolers rather than punishing us and adding obstacles that do nothing to help our children learn.