

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 266
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Submitter Comments:

To the Committee members, I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed changes regarding homeschooling regulations, particularly the requirement to adhere strictly to the Australian curriculum. Whilst I wholeheartedly agree that every child deserves a quality education, I firmly believe that the solution is not to impose a standardised curriculum on all homeschooling families. As a homeschooling parent, I have experienced firsthand the benefits of a tailored curriculum that suits the individual needs of my daughter. By having the flexibility to customise her education, my daughter has thrived both academically and personally since she has left the traditional school environment. She has been able to delve deeper into subjects that she is passionate about, explore various learning resources, and learn at her own pace. Having this flexibility has been vital in her pain management due to a chronic illness, something that was unachievable for her whilst attending mainstream schooling. I understand that the Australian curriculum serves as a guide for homeschooling families, and I myself use it as a guide but mandating its strict adherence would only hinder in the ability to provide a personalised and effective education for my child. These proposed changes would undoubtedly not only have a negative impact on my child's learning outcomes, but also on her mental and physical health. As well as the learning experiences of many other homeschooling families across Queensland. Furthermore, I want to address any misconceptions or stereotypes surrounding homeschooling. In my experience, homeschooling parents are deeply passionate and invested in their children's well-being and education. The homeschooling community is vibrant, supportive, and dedicated to providing the best possible educational opportunities for our children. In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider these proposed changes, remove the adherence to ACRA and instead support the individualised education that homeschooling provides as I am sure you would agree with me that every child is unique, with different learning styles, interests, and needs. Let homeschooling families be able to continue to tailor an educational plan to meet their own child's unique needs, interests, and abilities. I thank you for considering my perspective on this issue. Sincerely, Andrea Claridge