

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Proposed changes to homeschool regulations
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Dear committee members,

I am writing with some concerns around the proposed changes to education legislation in Queensland.

I am a mother of 4 who chooses to homeschool in a regional area. My 3 oldest children have spent a year in school, and otherwise homeschooled, and my youngest is due to start formal education next year.

My concern is around the requirements of homeschooling families to teach and report on the entire Australian curriculum. Firstly, planning and teaching four different levels is already extremely time consuming, and the burden of reporting on other subject areas in the current format will take away valuable teaching and learning time. If the reporting requirement for homeschoolers would be similar to that provided by a classroom teacher, where we submitted a grade and short comment for every subject, this would be no problem. Homeschool families are required to submit two work samples for 3 subjects completed by the child, and then annotate how they demonstrate progress, which is a far more onerous reporting requirement. For some subject areas this is quite difficult to demonstrate according to the HEU requirements, for example musical instruments and physical education. If we are to be required to report on all the subject areas of the Australian curriculum, perhaps it could be covered briefly in the year in review report we are required to provide.

A teacher in a school setting is not expected to have every student make meaningful progress in every subject in every year. Some students will always have higher aptitude for subjects than others. For some of my children this will present no problem, but I anticipate that the parent of a child with specific learning disorders or school refusal might not be able to demonstrate the desirable level of progress in some subjects. To cancel someone's homeschooling registration for this would be unfair, given there is no guarantee the child would perform better in a school setting. In reality, this is the reason many neurodiverse children are removed from school in the first place.

Another issue is what happens when homeschooled children have finished the entire curriculum? One of my children is currently working around 2 years ahead of her same age peers. What am I supposed to report for her when she is 15 and has to complete compulsory English and maths but she had already completed all the mandated work?

I believe the curriculum is not a good fit for all children. Especially as children get into senior schooling ages, we can trust these families to make sensible decisions about what their children are capable of learning, and what is necessary.

Thanks for letting me have my say.

Kind regards,
Sarah Eisel

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