

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Education Amendment Bill 2024- concerns raised
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Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you with my concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, particularly Clause 68, that has recently been presented to parliament. As a homeschooling parent deeply committed to providing the best possible education for my children, I am concerned about any attempts to impose a rigid system, such as the Australian Curriculum, as this would be counterproductive and have detrimental impacts on my children and their ability to achieve high quality learning. As someone who puts substantial thought, time, skill and dedication into home educating, I am disappointed in the proposed changes. While individualised learning is not possible in a classroom, it is in a home learning setting. This is one of the strengths of home education, particularly for diverse learners or those with disability.

I wholeheartedly agree that every child deserves access to a high-quality education. However, I must express my reservations regarding the adequacy of the uninspiring Australian Curriculum in fulfilling this fundamental right. While the Australian curriculum may be presented as a superior option, it's essential to acknowledge that it's just one of many possibilities. In a landscape where alternative educational pathways are readily available, why should homeschooled children be confined to a single curriculum? Instead, we should embrace the richness of educational diversity and empower parents to make informed choices, to choose the educational approach that best aligns with their children's abilities and unique needs.

As a homeschooling parent of a neurodivergent child, we have spent hundreds of hours consulting with numerous specialists and allied health experts to determine how to best educate our child, given their strengths, interests, readiness and abilities. We attempted a mainstream educational pathway for our child; however, it was not a suitable fit and caused significant distress for our child.

Children with disabilities often face significant challenges in traditional school settings, where rigid structures and standardised approaches may not accommodate their diverse needs, despite the well-intentioned educators. Homeschooling provides a lifeline for these children, offering the flexibility and personalised support they require to learn and grow in a safe and nurturing environment, while ensuring that their education remains engaging and meaningful.

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, regardless of their differences or abilities, 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. I believe that imposing the Australian Curriculum on homeschooling families would be counterproductive and would only serve to exacerbate the

issues of children falling through the gaps in the mainstream education system.

Homeschooling provides a unique opportunity to address these gaps by tailoring education to the individual needs of each child and fostering a supportive learning environment that promotes academic success and personal growth. In conclusion, I implore the committee to heed the voices of homeschooling parents and to uphold our right to educate our children in the manner that best suits their needs and abilities. Let us continue to nurture the potential of our children and celebrate the extraordinary outcomes that homeschooling affords.

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 children and young people across Queensland. I look forward to hearing your response about this important issue.

Sincerely,
Malorie Grigg

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