Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

From:	
To:	Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee
Subject:	Queensland's curriculum
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Dear Committee members

I am a homeschool graduate. I spent time both within schools and homeschooling in Queensland and the Northern territory. I oppose the proposed bill for the following points

• Defining a high quality education as aligning to the national curriculum is laughable.

• A guiding principle that states homeschooling must be in the best interest of the child is ambiguous and needs future boundaries to avoid government overreach

• Removing provisional registration and thus time to create a high quality plan, is unworkable for a number of reasons.

I was removed from a private school to homeschool early in my education. I was a high energy kid who was easily distracted in the classroom and it was never the best place for me to learn. I learnt best having conversations with Nana while riding endurance horse races and while fishing with mum. These are not in the national curriculum.

I spent time living remotely as my mum is a remote dialysis nurse. I learnt the ways of the indigenous cultures first-hand, not through a textbook. Most of the things I learnt are not in the curriculum but these things shaped who I am as a person and my future. I am currently living remotely and am enrolled in a bachelor of nursing to help the community I love. I also work full time in the local hospital. I am a product of successful homeschooling without the national curriculum.

Most people wouldn't have agreed that homeschooling was in my best interest, but that's not because it wasn't. That is due to public ignorance and a complete lack of understanding of what homeschooling really is. Child safety, counsellors, psychologists and well-meaning relatives all questioned if this was the right path for me. I didn't. My Aunty who played a large and supportive role in my educational journey, was always confident I was better off at home learning in real world interactions also. Who is to say its not in a child's best interest? Where is that line drawn?

As amazing as my mum is she could not have created a plan to homeschool me aligned to the national curriculum overnight each time we relocated between states or as I moved in and out of schools. Time is needed to create high quality educational plans. Time to research resources, time to heal from school trauma, time to get to know your child's learning styles. I had no trouble switching between states, school, homeschool or homeschool at Auntys place, but some adjustment time is always needed for big changes and its unreasonable to think we children will hit the ground running on day one. Holidays are OK while plans are created. We do homeschool 365 days a year after all.

This legislation proposal is helping no one and shows a lack of real consultation and understanding of the homeschooling community.

Taylor Jorgensen