

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 305
Submitted by: Allyce Moller
Publication:
Attachments: No attachment
Submitter Comments:

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Legislation changes for Home Education
Date: Thursday, 14 March 2024 8:43:44 PM

14/03/24

Committee Secretary
Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Secretary,

I am writing to you with my concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the education bill that has recently been presented to parliament. As a home educating parent, I do not support these changes that have been introduced and I am worried about the effect that they will have on my family and the homeschooling community. I urge you, as an elected representative, to speak for your impacted constituents.

I am particularly concerned about the requirement to follow the Australian Curriculum and the granting of homeschooling if it's in the best interests of the child.

The current curriculum is over-packed and leaves little time for the foundations of reading, writing and arithmetic. Starting formal education at such a young age left my children struggling to keep up, crumbling under the pressure and excessive expectations. Many times they weren't grasping concepts adequately before having to move on to the next concept, which affected them academically but also emotionally. After beginning homeschooling a few years ago, I found there was time for them to fully understand and learn, before moving on. There was no rush for them to move through the curriculum/grades at such a hurried pace, which in turn allowed for more emotional stability. They would be adversely affected if I had to exactly follow ACARA as they would not be able to work at their individual ability level. In other subject areas, we often combine for unit studies and learn in context. For example, with the upcoming election, I intend to complete a unit study on Government and The Democratic Process. While it may not be "prescribed" in their particular grades in the curriculum for either of them to be learning about this yet, it is far more relevant and logical for them to learn about this in the context of our state election.

I am also concerned regarding an amendment in the bill, that states that homeschooling will be granted if it is in the best interest of the child. Who determines what is in the best interest of a child? Surely as our children's father and mother who raise them and know them best, my husband and I most qualify and are the ones responsible for making decisions pertaining to them? If any politician believes otherwise, how is this not a grasp for government control and a gross overreach into personal parenting and family matters?

As a parent of neurodivergent children, we have spent hundreds of hours consulting with numerous specialists and allied health experts to determine how to best educate our child. We have seen first hand the remarkable improvement academically and socially emotionally that one-on-one tailored, individualised education provides. Mainstream schooling and ACARA did not provide a stable environment for my children to learn, but rather increased anxiety, lowered their self esteem and exposed them to volatile and violent fellow students whose behaviour cannot be contained because of a powerless system. This one-size-fits-all approach is not working, as evidenced by the substantial uptake in home education.

The Minister for Education needs to start addressing the serious and widespread problems of our current curriculum and education system. Rather than further regulating home education, she needs to be asking *why is the current system not working for so many?*

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 students across Queensland. I look forward to hearing your response about this important issue.

Sincerely,

Allyce Moller

