

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 350
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Publication:
Attachments: No attachment
Submitter Comments:

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: New legislation for homeschoolers
Date: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 5:14:43 PM

To whom this may concern,

I am writing to advise of my strong objection and concerns regarding changes of the current legislation in reference to homeschooling in QLD. As a constituent and a member of the community, I believe it is imperative to voice my apprehensions about the potential impact of these changes on our education system.

Currently those of us who are registered with Home Education Unit in QLD, already submit a curriculum plan and annual report, with evidence of our child/student's learning which must prove that our child/student is receiving a quality education at home.

I feel I speak for many homeschooling parents and caregivers when I state, that many of us have chosen this path because the mainstream education system has either failed our child or simply has not been suitable for their learning and emotional needs.

My personal story is that of my son who is now 14 years old and thriving. At primary school, he was an anxious and nervous student who didn't fit in socially or academically.

His books would come home, empty. His lunchbox would come home, untouched and he'd come home with migraines every afternoon, due to the stress of trying to learn in an environment that did not nurture his learning and emotional needs.

At break times, he'd wander around on his own, looking lonely and sad. (I know this as I worked at the school.)

Fast forward to now, he participates in homeschooling sports, squad swimming team and numerous homeschooling activities. His self esteem has flourished and academically, he's a bright and intelligent young man who has acquired knowledge and skills in more topics than the Australian Curriculum could ever promote.

Perhaps the time and funding would be better spent, investigating why the Australian curriculum, mainstream education is failing Australian students and what can be done to provide a quality education in a safe and nurturing environment where children enjoy learning.

I have genuine concerns about the lack of transparency and public consultation surrounding these changes. As a stakeholder in our education system, I believe it is of utmost importance for the voices of educators, parents, students and members of the community to be heard and considered in any decision-making process that impacts our schools.

With numerous styles of learning and numerous ways to deliver a quality education, implementing a one size fits all by changing the homeschooling laws and forcing the same curriculum that failed many homeschooling students in the past, is not the answer.

I'll conclude with a quote by the very well respected Albert Einstein - "Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."

Kind regards,

Lauren Ambrose Owen

