

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 360
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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Attachments: No attachment
Submitter Comments:

To the Committee,

I am writing to object to the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Bill 2024 in the current form. I have specific concerns with the implications of Clauses 18, 64 & 68 and I am in support of the Free2homeschool Movement.

I wish to make specific note that I do not believe that the national curriculum is a reasonable definition for a high-quality education and I also do not believe that the education department should be imposing on a parent's right to choose the best educational environment for a child.

These amendments will have a direct impact on my grandchildren, their peer groups, and all children in the entire state that currently have the flexibility to choose how they learn, thus restricting them in their freedom of choice when it comes to education, and having a potential detrimental effect on every single child across the state.

What are kids learning at school now? They may have the national curriculum on offer but this doesn't mean the children are learning. In home education we are already fulfilling the needs of the children and offering a higher-quality of education than what is afforded in a school environment. The teachers in classrooms have lost control and this is not what I want to see for my grandchildren. Why don't we look at why teachers are leaving in droves and put attention into where it is needed instead of what is already working.

I do not believe school to be a safe environment, so we are we so concerned about the safety in the home of home educating students by expecting education departments to make decisions what is in the best interests of the children? All these families home educating are making these sacrifices and decisions already for their child's best interests. It isn't easy to give up part of the family income or make the sacrifices they do, so these are not done lightly. They are protecting their children from what is happening in schools and the lack of supervision, support and learning opportunities alike.

When I was in school, if we didn't pass, we didn't move up in levels. Now if a student doesn't pass, the teacher is in trouble. And yet the bill is proposing that home educated students will need to demonstrate educational progress to pass? How is this fair? Home educating families already have a more onerous task in Queensland than any other state to prove the high-quality education their children are receiving. How is implementing the national school curriculum and creating more paperwork going to make this better? How does the national school curriculum equate to defining high-quality learning? I am yet to see the quality afforded to home educated students in watching my grandchildren being homeschooled replicated with the national

curriculum. I do not feel this is going to be of any benefit to maintaining the current level of education in the homeschool environment as they have now. If my grandchildren had to align with the national curriculum, they would not have been able to access university subjects from 15yo like they did.

I want to see the flexibility and freedom of choice maintained in the legislation to ensure every child has a choice and every parent has a right to support their choice.

--End of submission--

Please keep my personal details below private, as I fear for repercussion with my workplace and employment.

Kind regards,

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]