

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 368
Submitted by: Judy Oppermann
Publication:
Attachments: No attachment
Submitter Comments:

Custodial Grandmother: Ms Judy Oppermann

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

To Whom It May Concern

Re: - *Changes to the Homeschool Legislation as Proposed in the
“Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024”*

This submission is to inform, that I ***unreservedly object*** to the proposed changes to “Homeschooling” in Queensland as put forward by the “Department of Education.”

Reason: The educator should be able to choose what and how to teach their child in the home environment, stated in the:-

1. *“Human Rights Act 2019” Section 1 Every child has the right to have access to primary and secondary education appropriate to the child's needs.*
2. *“Human Rights Act 2019” Section 2 Every person has the right to have access, based on the persons' abilities, to further vocational education and training that is equally accessible to all.*

As long as the home educator endorses the above there is no need to follow a curriculum.

The question, I ask is “Why now?”, when the Curriculum was first introduced in 2006, it is now to be introduced into “The Act” after 18 years, if there is a necessity to the rewriting of the Act, I appreciate that, however, to identify the unfortunate death of an unsupervised child is beyond reprehensible, then to identify that it is somehow “Homeschoolers” fault is contemptible, due to a single fact of not including the curriculum in home teaching is farcical, suggestion, that you identify how many children have taken their lives whilst attending Department Schools, further, suggest that maybe, if parents didn't scope their children up and homeschool there could possibly be more, so you are aware, the stats are:- in 2022 – 77 deaths by suicide aged 17 or below, you need to consider these children who were suffering without the correct and necessary intervention, I would further suggest that whether they studied the curriculum or not is purely academic.

My grandson attended school provided by the “Department of Education”, after three years, according to his Naplan results, was well under the required level in all but 2 Bands, further, when you read the teachers report card nowhere is there an indepth learning scope other than effort – satisfactory – that remark doesn't tell me if my grandson knew his work, the time was to act and teach my grandson. Subsequently, attended parent/teacher interviews and at no time was there a verbal indication of any learning problems, with that I hope you have been assured why I removed my grandson from school.

***Changes to the Homeschool Legislation as Proposed in the
“Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024”***

If it is the expectation that a student follow the curriculum and report as such at the end of the respective year on said curriculum, in my case that would have not been feasible as I spent nearly two years teaching my grandson math learning numbers in an attempt to correct his “dyscalculia”, which was never identified at school, that he had any issue with numbers, all this has been captured in my annual reports to the “Home Education Unit”.

Before you suggest that homeschool families need to jump through hoops, I suggest you identify the shortcomings of individual schools. If in future, if I were to provide to “Home Education Unit” the standard I received by the teachers, without stating the obvious, the report would be returned unacceptable.

So the question is, the expectation is, you desire my reports to be far superior to what the teachers at school currently provide, well, I believe I am already doing that, as I have submitted three reports thus far, and not one peep from the Home Education Unit, out of curiosity are they even read, as there is no feedback given.

So you are aware, this change will not affect me, I am one of 20% following the curriculum, that is my choice and I should have that choice, the same if I wish to not use the curriculum in forthcoming years, that should be my choice, your desire to teach should belong to the child's level of learning not some curriculum.

That reporting would have been far superior in expectations in the learning areas of math and english only as a standard but not the whole curriculum.

Once you enter my home to tell me what to provide by way of compulsory learning “*curriculum*”, then I suggest you are co-parenting with me, you afford no financial compensation to do so, in fact my grandson not attending school saves the taxpayer funding.

After reading the results of the conducted survey, whereby, so many children suffer difficulties in many ways, either learning or physical, it escapes me, why the department cannot demonstrate some compassion towards those families, this is once again a deliberate overreach by government and a knee jerk reaction at the expense of the family unit. Why do governments not give any families any credit but instead prefer to systematically go about dismantling the very fabric of a happy family.

May I take the liberty to suggest that you read an article written by “*Editor-At-Large*” of the “*Australian*” Mr Paul Kelly date 24th July 2021, 7 pages in total, indicating a crisis within mainstream schools, as a highlight “Schoolchildren have not been properly instructed in reading, math, science and the humanities,” when you read something of that calibre from a renowned journalist, you sit and take notice, especially with what is occurring to your grandson.

Please find attached a letter from my grandson.

Thank you for taking the time to read all my salient points for your consideration.

Regards

Judy Oppermann 20th March 2024