

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 398
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members, I am writing to you with great humility and concern regarding the proposed changes in legislation regarding home education, being put forward by the Minister of Education and Youth Justice Dianne Parmer. My partner and I consider homeschooling our two young children an incredibly serious responsibility and take great pride in the academic achievements our children have accomplished since exiting the formal schooling environment. The proposed changes in legislation for homeschooling in Queensland appear to restrict the freedom of parents to choose the best educational options for their children. Homeschooling allows parents to tailor their child's education to their individual needs, interests, and learning styles. By imposing stricter regulations on homeschooling, the government will hinder the ability of parents to provide a personalised and effective education for their children. Additionally, homeschooling can be a beneficial option for children who may not thrive in traditional school settings due to reasons such as bullying, learning disabilities, or mental health issues. The proposed changes in legislation make it more difficult for parents to homeschool their children in these cases, potentially depriving them of a safe and supportive learning environment. As parents of a neurodiverse child, we have experienced firsthand the challenges of navigating the education system and witnessed the impact on our child, as well as, the significant improvement in wellbeing and academic performance since exiting formal schooling. Furthermore, adopting ACARA aligned resources, methods and expectations into a homeschool setting will be considerably problematic. Beyond the fact that parents learning plans are already subjected to approval by HEU, the proposed changes seem to assume that parents are equally equipped to facilitate learning content that qualified teachers spend years training in and have to prove their understanding through formal assessment. Overall, it is my strong position that the proposed changes in legislation for homeschooling in Queensland are unreasonable, irrational and reactive. They serve to undermine parental autonomy, limit educational opportunities for children, and infringe upon parents' rights to provide a personalised education for their children. As homeschoolers, we are able to ensure a high quality of education that is adapted to suit the learning styles of our children. Forcing our family and others to adhere to something that, through experience, we know doesn't work feels like we are being mandated to gamble with our children's well-being and future. Thank you for your time and consideration in reading this submission. Respectfully, [REDACTED].