

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 513
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Dear Committee Secretary,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent education legislation changes that have been proposed in our state. As a constituent and a member of the community, I believe it is crucial to voice my apprehensions about the potential impact of these changes on our education system. My name is Monika and I live in North Brisbane and I homeschool my eldest daughter with plans to homeschool my younger daughter when the time comes. I am an experienced, qualified and registered primary teacher in Queensland and have still chosen this homeschool route for our family.

I am aware that the proposed changes primarily focus on mandating adherence to a standardised curriculum without delving into the underlying reasons why many families choose homeschooling in the first place. It's crucial to acknowledge that homeschooling is often chosen by families for a variety of reasons, including religious or philosophical beliefs, dissatisfaction with the traditional schooling system, concerns about safety and bullying, or a desire for more personalised and flexible learning experiences tailored to individual student needs.

Rather than imposing stricter regulations, I urge the committee to prioritise understanding and addressing the root causes of homeschooling trends. This entails listening to and considering the feedback from homeschooling parents and families, who are directly impacted by these legislative changes. Their insights and experiences are invaluable in shaping effective policies that support the diverse needs of families while ensuring the well-being and educational success of children.

In conclusion, I respectfully urge the committee to reconsider the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation and to engage in a collaborative dialogue with homeschooling stakeholders to identify and address the real issues driving this educational choice. By doing so, we can work towards a more inclusive and responsive educational system that respects the choices and concerns of all Queensland families.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for considering my concerns. I look forward to your response and to further dialogue on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Monika Puchala