

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 520
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee, I object to the proposals in the Education Bill 2024 relating to home schooling in Queensland. In particular;· the addition of the guiding principle that home education should be provided in the best interest of the child,· the Changing the definition of an approved education plan to be in alignment with the Australian Curriculum and· the removal of the grace period to submit plan with a new application to home school I live with my sister, her husband and their 7 children. She home educates my nieces and nephews and so I have seen the benefits provided to their children first hand. My sister has been home educating since 2018 but I have only been living with them since 2020 as COVID had a major impact on my employment. I believe that my sister and her husband should be able to choose how they educate their children free from justification and adding the clause to the legislation that home education should be provided in the best interest of the child puts caveats on this decision. Who decides what is in the best interest of the child? Why is home schooling singled out in this clause? Shouldn't all education choices be provided in the best interest of the child? My nieces and nephews have thrived in the home setting. They are currently in year 6, year 3, year 2, Prep and 3 are under school age. My eldest niece is the only one to have experienced going to school as my sister and her husband sent her to school for a term of year 3 in 2021. I noticed a huge change in her attitudes and behaviours during this period. She had hours of homework each night on top of a full day at school, she was lashing out at all of us when she got home as she was bottling up so much anxiety at school and could not relax, she experienced bullying and even had a death threat from another student. Due to the experience my niece had at school I doubt my sister is willing to trust a school with the safety and wellbeing of her children. I urge to keep home education as an equal and valid choice for parents and guardians.