Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 528

Submitted by: Florian Heise

Publication: Making the submission and your name public

Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee, I object to the proposals in the Education Bill 2024 relating to homeschooling 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 homeschooll am a father of 7 children 3 of which are registered with the home education unit (HEU) and 4 that are under registration age. While I am not actively educating my children on a day to day basis as my wife does this I am actively involved in my children's education and our family's decision making process. I believe that as a parent I should have free choice over where and how to educate my children. By adding in this guiding principle that home education should be provided in the best interest of the child this chose is undermined. In Monday's parliamentary briefing it was said that homeschooling will always be an option for some children in Queensland. We homeschool by choice and our children have never been to school, homeschooling should be a choice for all children not just those who do not fit within the framework of school. I also disagree with the changing the definition of a high quality education to be an education aligned with the Australian Curriculum. This is a very limiting definition. My wife already produces an annual education plan for each of our children identifying how we will deliver a high quality and personalised education for each child and an annual report demonstrating how this plan has been implemented. These plans and reports have been consistently approved by the HEU confirming that we are already providing a high quality education without alignment to the national curriculum. My kids are being educated to a high standard, just today my son sat his final NAPLAN year 3 numeracy test at our local primary school. He was welcomed by the principle and experienced the same test conditions as every other year 3 student in Australia. Finally I believe that if the regulations surrounding home education increase this will further drive families underground and children will go unregistered with the HEU effectively rendering them truant. This legislation if passed will put further administrative pressure on families and HEU while doing very little to address truancy or the health and wellbeing of children in Queensland. Regards, Florian Heise