

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 536
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Submitter Comments:

Dear Hon. Di Farmer and Committee members

When I chose to Home Educate my children, it came from my heart. A place of love, respect and wanting to do the best for my 3 girls, each with their unique learning styles, interests, and needs.

I wanted them to learn in a family environment and I wanted them to be able to follow their interests, passions and whatever excited them that day, even though it may not be what is written in a book. I also wanted them to have a solid educational foundation and develop a love of learning. It is possible to do both.

It was a big decision, but one I have never regretted. It's important to know that my children want to be educated at home. It is also their choice. With a proud heart, I can certainly say they have grown into mature, beautiful and intelligent young ladies.

Your new proposal to force the Australian Curriculum upon Queensland Home Schooling families, fills me with concern. I do not support this step and never will. The workload on families and the HEU is already very heavy. By making these proposed changes, reporting on 8 subjects and the extra work involved, you will be taking away precious time spent with family and actual learning time for our children. What is a child to do who wants to learn about something not in the Australian curriculum? Is this to be ignored? Please remember, there is nothing more important than family, nothing.

You are taking away our choice. This is a beautiful and free country where many of us have chosen to take on the responsibility of educating our children. Some families choose to send their children to school and therefore they are choosing the Australian Curriculum. Those who chose not to send their children to school should also have a choice in what is taught. They are our children after all. It has been beneficial to be able to use the Australian Curriculum as a guide and as part of our learning, but to make this the only way is very narrow minded.

Please leave the Home Education system as it is now. It's not broken, there is no need to change or fix anything. In my family, it is in my children's best interest to be educated at home. As their Mother, I am the best judge, not someone on a committee who does not know us. I am sure you will be getting inundated with many homeschooling parents who feel the same. I hope these submissions will change your mind as it affects thousands of families. Home Education is our way of life, this is our family, this is our love. Listen to these families.

Thank you for reading and I hope this letter touches a place in your heart so you can understand how my family and many others feel about this proposed decision. Please don't go ahead with these changes, it benefits no one.