

## Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 547  
**Submitted by:** Bronwyn Laning  
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**Attachments:** See attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

Dear Members of the Committee,

Subject: Objection to Proposed Amendments included in the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.

I am writing to express my objections to, and concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, particularly in relation to the mandatory use of the Australian Curriculum for Home Education and the requirement for comprehensive reporting across all subject areas.

As a parent responsible for the home education of my four young children, each at different levels of learning, I am deeply troubled by the proposed requirement to adhere to the Australian Curriculum. This approach would fail to accommodate the diverse needs, abilities, culture and learning styles of my children. Mandating its use would severely inhibit my ability to provide tailored, individualised instruction that best serves the unique educational requirements of each of my children.

Furthermore, the proposed obligation to report on all subject areas is not only burdensome but also unnecessary. Home education provides an opportunity for flexibility and personalised learning experiences that extend beyond traditional academic subjects. By imposing stringent reporting requirements, the proposed amendments undermine the very essence of home education, stifling creativity, exploration, and the pursuit of diverse interests.

These changes would undoubtedly be detrimental to my family and the educational journey of my children. By prioritising bureaucratic measures over the well-being and individualised learning needs of students, the proposed amendments neglect the fundamental principles of home education. The time and effort required to comply with these amendments would not only detract from valuable learning opportunities but also impede my children's social development and engagement with home education co-ops and classes.

I must emphasise that I have been successfully home educating my children for almost seven years now, during which time I have tailored their education to suit their individual needs and interests. One of my children has specific medical needs that require a customised approach to learning, which has been facilitated through home education. The proposed amendments would significantly disrupt the progress and well-being of my children, particularly my child with medical needs, whose educational journey relies heavily on flexibility and personalised support.

It is also troubling to me to consider that under these proposed amendments, I would potentially be required to prove that home education is in the best interests of my children. It is unclear who would be tasked with making such determinations, and it is imperative that the autonomy of parents in making decisions regarding their children's education is respected and upheld. It's pertinent to note that I hold a Bachelor's Degree and a Postgraduate Diploma, and I made a conscious decision to sacrifice my own career to dedicate myself to the raising and education of my children. Having invested in my own education and professional development, as well as parenting my children for the past ten years, I firmly believe that I, along with my husband, am best positioned to discern what is in the best interest of my children's education. My qualifications and firsthand knowledge of my children's learning needs underscore the importance of preserving the liberty and flexibility of home education.

I watched the Parliamentary Hearing on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024, and was disappointed by the weak, vague and untrue answers provided in response to the critical questions raised. For example, this will not bring QLD into line with most of the other states except for Tas and ACT. This statement, amongst others, was deceitful and misleading. It became evident that there was a lack of transparency and accountability in addressing concerns regarding the proposed amendments. Instead of providing reassurance and clarity, the responses further heightened my apprehensions about the potential negative impacts of these amendments.

In light of these concerns, I urge the members of the Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee to reconsider the proposed amendments and engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders within the home education community. Any changes to education legislation must prioritise flexibility, autonomy, and the holistic development of children, ensuring that families like mine can continue to provide enriching educational experiences tailored to the needs of our children.

Thank you for considering my objections. I trust that you will take the necessary steps to safeguard the rights and interests of all Queensland families involved in home education.

Sincerely,

Bron Laning