

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

**Submission No:** 548  
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**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee, I'm reaching out to express my deep concern about the proposals in the Education Bill 2024 relating to homeschooling in Qld. I currently homeschool my 2 children after them spending a number of years in the public and private education system. I have a bachelor of primary education and my husband is currently a high school teacher who has taught from prep to university level and yet we are severely disappointed in the Australian school system. We believe it is failing thousands of students which is why we strongly believe in homeschooling. My first concern is the proposal that all homeschooling families must adhere to the Australian National Curriculum and teach the entire curriculum. I strongly believe that ACARA does not suit all students and is definitely not the only curriculum that can be considered 'high quality'. When my children were attending school and learning from the Australian curriculum, it led to them hating learning and having gaps in their knowledge across multiple curriculum areas. Since starting homeschooling, a love of learning has been sparked in my children and they willingly and happily engage in high quality learning. I have also been able to identify and address their gaps in knowledge and their confidence and self-esteem have grown significantly because of this. Secondly, I believe removing the provisional registration and demanding a completed educational plan up front will significantly disadvantage at-risk students. When I first pulled my youngest son out of school, I did so because he was suffering from severe anxiety and medical issues which resulted in school refusal. We received absolutely no support at all from the school and felt we had no choice but to withdraw our son before he experienced irreparable trauma and fell significantly behind in his learning. This was an extremely stressful time for us and the pressure to understand the process and requirements of applying with HEU was stressful enough on its own. The added pressure of creating a full educational plan in an extremely short period of time would have potentially tipped us over the edge, despite us both being trained teachers who understand how to plan curriculum. Parents need a reasonable amount of time to be able to go through everything required to apply with HEU and develop a high-quality educational plan. If this is rushed, it will decrease the quality of plans and lead to more plans being rejected which will in turn, lead to unnecessary stress. Teachers in schools are not expected to plan an entire year of learning within a few days so why are homeschooling parents who are NOT trained teachers expected to do this? Lastly, I am very concerned that parent's rights will be infringed upon in their choice of how to educate their children. The proposal states that parents will be required to prove that homeschooling is in the best interest of their children. Who will be deciding what is in their best interest? There is no clarification on who or how this will be decided, and it is very worrying that someone other than a child's parents may be able to make this decision.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my submission.