

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 549
Submitted by: Reece Motson
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Dear Members of the Government Committee, I am writing to you today as a concerned Speech Pathologist with extensive experience supporting and working with homeschooled children, particularly those with disabilities and neurodiversity. I urge you to reconsider the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation in Queensland, specifically the mandate for homeschooled children to follow the Australian Curriculum rather than an individualised learning plan tailored to their unique needs. As someone deeply invested in the well-being and educational success of all children, I understand the importance of ensuring that every child has access to quality education that meets their specific requirements. However, I believe that the proposed changes fail to adequately consider the needs of homeschooled children, especially those who are neurodivergent, including those with autism and ADHD. Many families choose homeschooling for their neurodivergent children because traditional school settings have not been conducive to their learning and development. Issues such as bullying, lack of acceptance, and inadequate support for their needs have led these families to seek alternative educational options. By mandating adherence to the Australian Curriculum without considering individual needs, we risk further marginalising these vulnerable children and hindering their educational progress. As a Speech Pathologist, I have witnessed firsthand the benefits of personalised learning plans for homeschooled children with disabilities and neurodiversity. These plans allow for flexibility and customisation, ensuring that each child receives education tailored to their strengths, challenges, and learning styles. Mandating conformity to a standardised curriculum could stifle their progress and limit their opportunities for success. I urge the committee to pause and engage in collaborative discussions with homeschool stakeholders, including families, educators, and professionals like myself, before moving forward with these proposed changes. It is crucial that the voices of those directly impacted by these policies are heard and considered. Together, we can work towards solutions that balance the need for educational standards with the imperative of meeting the diverse needs of homeschooled children. In conclusion, I implore you to prioritise the well-being and educational rights of homeschooled children, particularly those with disabilities and neurodiversity, by revisiting and revising the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation. Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and I am hopeful that we can work together towards a more inclusive and equitable educational system for all children in Queensland. Sincerely, Reece Motson
Certified-Practising Speech Pathologist