Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No:	551
Submitted by:	
Publication:	Making the submission and your name public
Attachments:	See attachment
Attachments.	See attachment
Submitter Comments:	

16 March 2024

Dear The Committee,

I object to the proposals in the Education Bill 2024. As a home educating parent, I do not support some of these changes that have been introduced and I am worried about the impact that they will have on my family and the homeschooling community.

- 1. I am particularly concerned about defining high -quality education as the National School Curriculum. This is already available via Distance Education for families to follow, which my eldest does. However, for my youngest it is not suitable for her, we found it restricting and not engaging. We now follow a child-led curriculum that caters to her interest and real-life skills, she no longer resists learning as it aligns with her interest. We have been blessed to take online education and resources from all over the world including Singapore and US. Able to attend in person classes in: Lego Robotics, Technical training for Football, Cupcake Decorating classes, Cookie business class, Aerial and many more. Children are individuals, all learn differently and are at different levels of learning. Having a one size fits all would be unreasonable to expect every child will meet and thrive following the National School Curriculum.
- 2. Removal of provisional registration. My girls were advanced in their learning, however due to the mainstream schooling environment they were traumatized with the bullying in and outside of the classroom environment. They did not feel safe, which resulted in their learning to decline and so did their emotional, physical and mental well-being. I am concerned about this as people need time to create and write up a plan, in particular trauma-based families who have no time to put in a submission. Where families are feeling trapped and stuck in a school that is not safe for their child/ren. I believe that this is unrealistic to come up with a 365-day plan based on the National Curriculum overnight.
- 3. Increased reporting expectation to demonstrate the educational progress. This is unrealistic and unreasonable as the current system in mainstream schooling does not do this so why would you ask home Educators to? Why implement this when HEU don't intend to read all our paperwork, which is inequitable and creates pointless hours of work for homeschoolers.

This directly affects my family as, if my daughter is to be forced into implementing the National School Curriculum, she will disengage and not thrive in her learning.

The proposed bill is potentially discriminatory. Discrimination against -

- Disability
- Neurodivergence
- Gifted/Asynchronous Development
- Health
- Personal choice
- Religion

I'm concerned that the legislation has been introduced without proper consultation with current homeschooling families and I hope that you will take my feedback into consideration. For education to be inclusive of all students, I believe it is important to understand the reasoning behind the education decisions of the families who struggle the most to fit into mainstream education.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. It is my hope that, going forward, this legislation can suit the needs of all students across Queensland. I look forward to hearing your response about this important issue.

Sincerely,

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