

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 577
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Attachments: No attachment
Submitter Comments:

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Submission regarding EDUCATION (GENERAL PROVISIONS) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024
Date: Thursday, 21 March 2024 10:56:47 PM

Dear Committee,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent education legislation changes that have been proposed in our state. I work for the Queensland Police Service as a relieving team leader and customer service officer, and I am also a homeschooling parent. During my 7 years in this role, I have dealt with children from all walks of life due to various reasons, whether it is stealing or offences against a person. With the absurd increase in youth related crime, it would be ignorant to assume that the school system as it stands is the solution to any wellbeing concerns that the department may have about home education.

I vehemently oppose defining a high quality education as the Australian Curriculum, Senior Syllabus and TAFE alone, and the suggested increase in reporting requirements. To demand that a parent must have essentially a university bachelor's degree to teach their child is illogical; it would be the same as handing someone a badge and firearm, and tell them to uphold the laws, prevent crimes and respond to calls for Police service, with no experience. It wouldn't happen, neither should this. Officers are trained, they learn their rights and responsibilities and they earn the responsibility to become a Police Officer, then they continue on-site training as a First Year Constable for a year. Mechanics have 4 years to learn their trade, carpenters, boiler-makers; and they are paid for the work that they do. To slap the face of homeschool educators and say you must now adhere to the full standards of the Australian Curriculum without any training, and disallowing other resources on the grounds "if it's not ACARA it's not 'high quality'", all the while Home Educators are unpaid, is a bullish and cowardice move, showing no thought or consideration of how homeschooling actually looks in action, but is an act of desperation to put a band-aid over a bullet wound.

Police vernaculars aside, I take reports of offences against persons, and offer referrals to family members struggling with child related issues; they will be with child safety, external programs, headspace, youth-engagement programs, and so on. These parents are at their tipping point, at a loss at what to do next, and are ready to surrender their children over to the state. I have dealt with this countless times, and not once has the child in question been homeschooled. I believe that many of these issues start in the schools; bullying, social-media content, sexual comments, racist comments, violence; things that we do not replicate in our home, nor would you want your own children to be subjected or exposed to. Our children are too precious to have their innocence taken away so soon as the result of exposure to these kinds of inappropriate exchanges at an increasingly young age. Many families are opting out of this culture and instead prioritising the wellbeing of their children by educating them at home. These proposals will push these parents to choose between the extreme demands of attempting to implement a standardised, overcrowded framework in a highly individualised environment, or into schools where teachers are so stretched and burned out just managing behaviour, yet again implementing the curriculum. It perplexes me why support is not being doused on home educating families choosing to take that burden

on themselves.

I choose for me and my family to home educate, and this is a choice not taken lightly. Not only does it put the entire onus on us to provide a high quality education, but it means we are with our children 100% of the time. In a society that is more than happy to take their children to daycares, schools and various outside-of-school programs, our choice is an additional sacrifice on top of taking the mantle of teaching them. Therefore I suggest taking a holistic approach and ask why families choose to homeschool. It is not better or greater than the Queensland Education, only different, and when people use the services listed prior, it is for their personal reasons. Much like faith and choice of vehicle, they are choices we are allowed to make. Police are exposed to these children, I can firmly say that, in 7 years I don't recall one child who was out there committing these heinous offences that was homeschooled. This does not promote superiority, but points to how homeschooling allows parents to have tight-knit relationships – keeping their children accountable and teaching them how to be ready to handle life in society, not just academically but socially.

The proposed changes within the homeschool system trouble me greatly, as no statistical data has been provided to back up the suggestions, only that we must do as you have said. This authoritarian act is cowardice and provides nothing but a controlling environment where free-thinkers and caring parents are cast to the side because of a government department that has mismanaged this situation.

This is not homeschooling educators' fault and having inside knowledge and speaking to various other government departments about children not being at school and not being able to be found/contacted/reached is an embarrassment. If a home educator has "lost" their child, then it is an emergency. We know where our children are, they are:

- 1) Not committing crimes
- 2) Whereabouts are known
- 3) Life experiences are known
- 4) Loves and interests are known
- 5) Full of joy and excitement to learn with their family and friends
- 6) Growing and learning how to be apart of a growing world
- 7) Receiving a high-quality education
- 8) Safe

We don't lose our children if you don't pull the trigger on such a hot-headed change.

Please redact all my personal information (name, email & phone number) from this submission before placing in public domain.

Kindest regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]