

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

**Submission No:** 592  
**Submitted by:** Rebecca Pham  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** See attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Changes to Homeschooling Legislation

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you regarding the proposed education legislation that was introduced to the Queensland parliament on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2024.

[https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/whole/html/bill.first/bill-2022-052?fbclid=IwAR1hZpIH9dxzn3QS7Jab-G4XshmLcX1MbiTjWMn\\_KrhFYb67bq15CvrMgg](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/whole/html/bill.first/bill-2022-052?fbclid=IwAR1hZpIH9dxzn3QS7Jab-G4XshmLcX1MbiTjWMn_KrhFYb67bq15CvrMgg)

Our family has been homeschooling in Queensland since 2022. After two years in a private school that was not able to cater to the high level of intelligence and thirst for knowledge that our daughter demonstrated, we knew homeschooling was the best choice for our children. We were told by leadership before Prep began that our daughter would 'plateau' and found that she was often assisting her teacher in her Prep classroom to teach small groups as she was well above her peers academically and in maturity. The school setting could not provide a 'high-quality education' for our daughter. She became bored, then began feeling anxious and upset about having to spend her days in a classroom around other difficult behaviours and essentially, not learning. We have been very happy with our decision to homeschool our children and they have thrived with the flexibility that homeschooling provides.

I have three specific concerns regarding the proposed legislation – the requirement to plan to the Australian Curriculum, the requirement to report across all areas of the Australian Curriculum, and the inadequate definition of key phrases in the document.

**Planning against the Australian Curriculum.** As a Primary and Middle Schooling Teacher who worked in State Schools from 2011 - 2020, I am well aware of The Australian Curriculum and how it is designed to be used in a school setting. It is designed to be delivered to large classrooms of children but it is less suitable for a tailored education setting where there is ample resources and time available for each student. The proposed legislation seems to be focused on curriculum at all costs, regardless of student outcomes. With the vast swathe of educational resources available today it seems ridiculous to narrow students' learning options to a shallow, standardized curriculum.

Our children are able to deeply explore their subjects of interest, at any time, at any age, much more than a set curriculum allows. They are able to move through their work at their own pace which ensures they have a good understanding of concepts and also means boredom is not an issue. The legislation changes proposed would enforce adherence to the national curriculum, which severely narrows the scope and depth of potential learning areas for children. This element of the legislation also has the potential to limit the opportunity for more senior students to pursue higher education options at a younger age than their mainstream school colleagues.

**Reporting against the Australian Curriculum.** This legislation will make it more onerous for homeschooling parents for reporting purposes, which is time that could be better spent with our children. I would expect that there would be a commensurate increase in workload for Home Education Unit (HEU) staff who are processing these reports. I would be curious to know if this change in legislation will be accompanied by a review in to appropriate resourcing for the HEU.

**Wording of the legislation** There is wording in this legislation that is also very concerning. Who would define what is "in the best interests of the child."? What defines "a high-quality education"? There are many students currently in school who are being badly failed by the system, yet they would be considered as having a "high-quality education" simply by attending school, regardless of their academic outcomes. Lack of clarity around these terms, and lack of information on who the deciding body will be, is very unsettling for the home education community.

The proposed changes to mandate a specific curriculum threaten to undermine the very essence of homeschooling—its ability to nurture the unique strengths and talents of each child. By imposing uniform standards, we risk alienating children who do not fit into the conventional mould and depriving them of the opportunity to thrive academically and personally.

As a homeschooling parent deeply committed to my children's education, I implore you to reconsider these proposed regulations. Instead of stifling creativity and individuality, let us work together to safeguard the flexibility and autonomy that make homeschooling such a valuable educational option for families like mine. Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I trust that you will make the decision that best serves the interests of all children, ensuring they have access to educational opportunities that honour their uniqueness and foster their growth.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Pham  
Homeschooling Parent of Four