

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 596
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Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members, My name is Patti, I am a proud grandmother of three and a hard working member of my community. I am writing in response to the proposed education legislation changes in Queensland. As the biggest supporter of my two homeschooled granddaughters, I could not let this legislation pass by without voicing my concerns. For context, we live in an area where kids who don't fit into a neat little box stand out like a sore thumb. Over the past decade I have had two nephews on the receiving end of terrible bullying because of their differences. My first nephew, with his diagnosis of ADHD, was consistently bullied through highschool and was beaten severely by other students which even resulted in cracked ribs. My second nephew is autistic and was non verbal until he was 5. In primary school a group of boys barricaded him in the toilets and used him as a urinal. So when my daughter told me she would be homeschooling her kids on the spectrum, while I was apprehensive at the thought of her taking an alternate path, I have to admit I felt relieved that my grandbabies would not have to endure the same learning environments. Over the past three years I have accompanied them to many homeschooling events. Park meets, cooking classes, tutoring lessons, art class, excursions, beach days, PE class, and organised learning activities. I have never come across more well rounded, resilient, polite and respectful kids than I have in our homeschool community. These legislation changes sound like you want to remove parents' ability to choose this for their kids. It sounds like you want to remove parents' ability to parent and educate the kids in front of them, and instead place them into neat little boxes. Boxes they don't fit in. Boxes that would see them beaten and abused. My granddaughters are so bright. Their breadth of knowledge astounds me daily, but also the personality is simply bursting out of them. Instead of allowing their mum to continue to teach them based on their passions and natural talents, you would have her teach an arbitrary curriculum that sees them bored, disengaged, falling behind, and ultimately losing their sense of self. Not to mention the requirement for my daughter to prove to you time and again that she is a capable mother. I am opposed to these changes, and I urge you to reconsider the proposed legislation with consideration given to the voices that have been disregarded to date - the voices of actual homeschooling parents and supporters who see and interact with the vibrant, enthusiastic learners on a daily basis, the future of our state. Our children. Sincerely, Patti Hanrahan