

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 597
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Dear Committee Members: Mr Mark Bailey MP, Mr James Lister MP, Mr Joe Kelly MP, Mr Nick Dametto MP, Mr Barry O'Rourke MP, Mr Brent Mickelberg,

I am writing to share my firsthand experience as a homeschooling parent and to emphasise the invaluable learning opportunities that homeschooling has provided for my children. In light of the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation, I believe it's crucial to highlight the positive impact that homeschooling has had on my children's love for learning and their preparation for the real world.

Since embarking on our homeschooling journey, I have witnessed a remarkable transformation in my children's attitude towards education. The personalised learning approach we have adopted has reignited their passion for learning and instilled in them a newfound confidence in their abilities. Rather than merely memorising facts and figures, they are actively engaged in exploring topics that spark their curiosity and pursuing knowledge in a way that resonates with them personally.

It is worth noting that, upon initially examining the current Queensland curriculum, we found that it did not align with our educational philosophy. Within just a few weeks of attempting to follow it, we realised that the high-quality learning experiences we could provide at home far surpassed what was being offered within the confines of a traditional curriculum.

Both of my children are on the Autism Spectrum, we did try traditional mainstream schooling with my eldest but found that it caused a lot of anxiety, stress and isolation at school. During her Prep year we watched her start to regress and was a shadow of the bright, confident little girl we knew before going to school. It was after that year we looked for an alternative to mainstream schooling. In the last two years, of home-schooling we have witnessed our daughter to become the bright, outgoing and confident girl she was before starting mainstream school. She has found so many things in common with the home-school children she has met during the home-school social and educational meet-ups in the community, this was something she struggled with during her time at mainstream and was unable to connect properly with her peers.

The Queensland curriculum fits for most, BUT it doesn't fit for all, which is why families like ours look into alternatives to educate their children.

Through homeschooling, my children are not only acquiring academic knowledge but also developing essential life skills and values that are essential for success in the real world. They are learning how to think critically, communicate effectively, and adapt to new situations—all skills that will serve them well beyond the confines of a classroom.

Moreover, homeschooling allows my children to actively participate in the world around them, gaining practical experience and insight that simply cannot be replicated in a traditional school setting. Whether it's volunteering in the community, pursuing hobbies and interests, or engaging in real-world projects, they are actively preparing for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in future.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to recognise and celebrate the diverse benefits of homeschooling, which go beyond mere academic achievement. As a homeschooling parent, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to nurture my children's love of learning and to prepare them for the complexities of the real world through personalized, holistic education.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Regards,

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Dean Nelson

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