

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 631
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

To whom it may concern, I am a registered teacher, currently pursuing my Bachelor of Laws, and I home-educate my daughter. As well as being an experienced home-educator, I have experience teaching in Queensland, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. I have taught in primary, secondary and distance-education schools throughout Queensland. As a teacher in Queensland, I witnessed: •A lack of support for teachers (particularly with issues relating to student behaviour management); •Students bullying other students; •A lack of resources; •Large class-sizes and a lack of staff; and •A lack of educational programs that were 'responsive to the individual needs of children and young people.' Due to these reasons, I elected to home-educate my daughter, in order to 'help maximise...her educational potential; and enable...her to become an effective and informed member of the community.' I am writing to express my concerns with the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 (Qld). In particular I am concerned with the insertion of s 217(1)(b)(ii). The meaning of an 'approved education and training program' as provided in the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 (Qld), is incredibly limiting. My twelve year-old daughter has benefited from experiencing a home-based education for the entirety of her schooling (prep – year seven). She has been enrolled in both the Home Education Unit and has attended a Queensland distance education school. While my daughter was enrolled in distance education, her program followed the Australian Curriculum. When she left distance education and enrolled in the Home Education Unit, she was not constrained by the Australian Curriculum. I provided her with a program that suited her learning style and increased her intellectual curiosity. I observed that while my daughter demonstrated educational progress using the Australian Curriculum, her progress in following a individual curriculum, tailored to meet her individual needs, was far superior. Currently my daughter is performing at levels ahead of the outcomes provided in the Australian Curriculum for her age-group. I ask you to reconsider limiting the scope of home-schooling programs to the Australian Curriculum. To constrain my daughter's learning program would deprive her of the opportunities (such as early tertiary enrolment) she is on track to receive with her current individual program. I request that you reconsider regulating home-education programs as this will inhibit students' rights to a program that is 'responsive to the individual needs of children and young people.' I look forward to hearing the Committee's discourse on this issue.