

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 637
Submitted by: Jennifer Stone
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent education legislation changes that have been proposed in our state. As a constituent, a concerned grandparent and a member of the community, I believe it is crucial to voice my apprehensions about the potential impact of these changes on our grandchildren. The proposed legislation raises several pressing concerns that I believe need to be addressed. I am particularly concerned about the proposal that home educating families must follow and report on all areas of the National Australian Curriculum (ACARA) and the discrimination this demonstrates against children with: • Disability • Neurodivergence • Gifted/asynchronous development • Other reasons for choice - health, religion, personal choice. The proposed changes would drastically impact the way our daughter and son-in-law are able to educate our grandchildren. They currently use a flexible and individualised approach that focused on each of their children's diverse learning needs. They attend numerous multi age groups and countless educational activities that see our grandchildren thriving and eager to learn. Being able to choose when, where and how they learn in a child led approach has been so beneficial with the behavioural challenges they face with neurodivergent children. Because of this flexibility and home school community approach to their learning both children have been able to surpass what we believe would be their limit within the National Curriculum. Certainly we see the benefit this would have had for our two sons when they were school age and we applaud our daughter for working so hard to provide this quality education for her children and constantly reflect and respond on their individual learning needs. I'm concerned that the legislation has been introduced without proper consultation with current home schooling families and I hope that you will take my feedback into consideration. In light of these concerns, I urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed education legislation and to prioritise the best interests of our students. For education to be inclusive of all students, I believe it is important to understand the reasoning behind the education decisions of the families who struggle the most to fit into mainstream education. Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. It is my hope that, going forward, this legislation can change to suit the needs of all students across Queensland. I look forward to hearing your response about this important issue.