

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

**Submission No:** 647  
**Submitted by:** Sharon Marie Egan  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members, I am writing to express my concern regarding the recent proposed changes to home education legislation in Queensland. As a constituent and a home education parent, I believe it is important to express my apprehension about the potential impact of these changes on our education system. As the parent of an Autistic child with learning disabilities, and a student studying a Master of Arts in Writing, I have devoted a considerable amount of time to researching how best to educate my child. This includes investigating evidence-based teaching strategies; ongoing consultation with an occupational therapist, a speech therapist, and a psychologist; engaging with home school organisations and in online forums with other home school families, and thousands of hours observing my child's learning styles, motivators and her strengths and weaknesses. Since starting home education in May 2023, I have tailored a program of learning that largely adheres to the Australian Curriculum but has remained flexible. This flexibility has been the key to our success as it prioritises my child's mental health, accommodates her special interests and learning goals, honours her curiosity and sense of wonder, and is attentive to her health. As such, she has made substantial educational progress and is more engaged with her learning journey. I do not believe this would be possible without the ability to modify and personalise her education program. An eclectic education program is crucial to her learning success because it works. The proposed legislation raises several concerns that I believe need to be addressed. First, the Australian Curriculum is complex and written by curriculum specialists; it is designed to be delivered in a structured learning environment by education professionals who have access to professional development resources, such as curriculum training. Home education families do not have access to these resources and will have to rely on expensive curriculum delivery services to meet the proposed registration requirements. Second, a standardised curriculum does not recognise the diverse interests, learning styles and skills of home-schooling students. Every child is unique and must be given the opportunity to pursue their passions, develop and nurture their own learning style, and design their own life. Third, a one-size-fits-all approach does not meet the needs of neurodivergent individuals and/or with special learning needs. Enforcement of the standardised curriculum and imposing additional regulations on home educators contradicts evidence-based research that emphasises the importance of personalised education, especially for neurodivergent learners. Fourth, many home school families I have communicated with are familiar and comfortable with their current program. Introducing further regulations may distract home educators and create anxiety in the learning environment. Children on the spectrum are especially at risk of developing behavioural issues or even developmental regression in response to dramatic changes to their routine. Finally, the current system of registration already includes provisions for planning and reporting to ensure accountability and a high standard of education. Moreover, research shows that parents are effective educators, and most home educators are highly motivated to deliver high quality education for their children in a safe and nurturing environment. Enforcement of the standardised curriculum has the potential to generate unnecessary anxiety around registration and reporting, further impacting home school families. In closing, I urge you to consider the concerns of the home education community regarding the proposed education legislation and consult with us on the next steps. Our community is committed to providing high-quality education for our children and changes in legislation will have extensive and ongoing consequences for us, therefore any changes to registration and reporting must be considered with the utmost care. By engaging openly and transparently with home education families, the committee can ensure that legislation responds to the needs and skills of individual students and the families who support them. Thank you for

taking the time to read my letter and for considering my concerns. I look forward to your response and to further dialogue on this important issue.Sincerely,Sharon Egan