

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

**Submission No:** 649  
**Submitted by:** Casey Patch  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

To whom it may concern, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent education legislation changes that have been proposed in our state. As a member of the homeschooling community and previous Primary School Teacher, I believe it is crucial to voice my objections to the potential impact of these changes on our education system. My name is Casey and before becoming a mother, I taught in a Foundation classroom here in Queensland. Last year, I pulled two of my children (aged 9 and 7) from mainstream schooling to begin home educating and this year, our third 5 year old child has also began home education with us. My children are all autistic, have ADHD and various other learning disabilities that affect their ability to access mainstream schooling.

Over their years at school, it became very clear that the current state of our education sector did not meet their right for a quality education, hence bringing them home to home educate in a way that met our children exactly where they were at was required. Over the last 6 months, we have seen the sparkle return to their eyes and they have made so much progress that it is truly astounding. There is no denying that home education was THE best choice we could have made for our family. However, the proposed legislation raises several pressing concerns that I believe need to be addressed. Firstly, mandating that parents educate using the Australian Curriculum is concerning. Requiring that all children work through the same mandated curriculum is discrimination against disability and neurodivergence. Our children were struggling with the fast pace of the Australian Curriculum within the school setting, so requiring them to meet this fast pace within the home education sector will put so much undue stress on our children. We are already juggling multiple weekly appointments for speech therapy, occupational therapy, psychology and physiotherapy for our three disabled children. We cannot possibly teach the Australian Curriculum individually to our now three school aged children in a way that will give them access to a quality curriculum. Currently, we are able to meet our unique children exactly where they are at. We are able to use their interests to create a curriculum that is unique to their abilities and interests, ensuring that their education is both engaging, developmentally appropriate and allows our children to feel success. We are able to make careful observations of our children and their current needs and extend their abilities at a pace that respects their neurodivergence. Within the Australian Curriculum, there is absolutely no space to follow special interests as they arise. There is no space for students to move at a slower pace to really consolidate their understandings. The Australian Curriculum has a complete and total disregard in seeing each child as a unique learner and it is not an example of a quality educational program for the home education space. Moreover, I am worried about the lack of transparency and public consultation surrounding these changes. As a stakeholder in our education system, I believe it is imperative for the voices of educators, parents, students and community members to be heard and considered in any decision-making process that impacts our ability to educate our children to the highest standard. Additionally, the requirement of following the Australian Curriculum for home educating families will result in a substantially increased workload and reporting requirements for home educators. I am sure I am joined by many others in our community when I say that I would much rather be spending what little time I have further supporting the children in my care than spending countless hours on extensive reporting requirements. This is a complete waste of time when these proposed changes will result in parent home educators spending more time on reporting than a classroom teacher would on their end of semester report cards. In light of these concerns, I urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed education legislation and to prioritize the best interests of our rapidly growing and proactive home

educating community. I implore you to advocate for a more inclusive and collaborative approach to policymaking that values input from all stakeholders and ensures the integrity and quality of our education system. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for considering my concerns. I look forward to your response on this important issue. Sincerely, Casey Patch