

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Concerned about changes to Homeschooling legislation
Date: Monday, 18 March 2024 1:13:45 PM

To the Committee,

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 Father and a member of the community, I believe it is crucial to voice my apprehensions about the potential impact of these changes on our children.

The proposed legislation raises several pressing concerns that I believe need to be addressed.

Firstly, the proposed changes to the homeschooling legislation will have many lead on effects that may not have been considered and will make things harder for both the children being homeschooled and the parents teaching.

Some concerns about the legislation,

1. Parents are not trained in ACARAs curriculum; it is clearly stated in the parents' section of the curriculum that the Australian Curriculum is for teachers in schools to ensure consistency across the country.
2. Alternative education providers, recognised in other areas of the legalisation in relation to parents' capacity to choose an alternative school that is 'recognised' (Im mainly thinking Steiner and Montessori here), who provide curriculum documents to homeschoolers will no longer be recognised. What implications does this change have for their capacity to also provide a school education in line with other areas of the Act?
3. Teachers and teacher educators are also affected, if we can just ask parents to drop everything and teach to the ACARA documents, why do we spend 4 years undergraduate or 2 years postgraduate teaching them how to teach to ACARA?
4. Other concerns are also that the senior subject syllabus documents which are identified in the Act are driven towards students sitting standardised testing in the senior phase of learning (semester 4 of their learning in that subject). If homeschooling families aren't sitting standardised testing, they would be incapable because they cannot have their teaching plans approved by ACARA in any event, this requirement seems moot.
5. Another concern I have is that the change implies that parents are now required to give a written report on every subject in the plan. While I agree that parents should be providing a report, and that it is imperative we ensure all young people in Queensland receive a high quality education, can the department handle the volume of reports on 8 KLAs from the over 10,000 parents currently registered? That seems like an enormous amount of work.
6. I am also concerned that in section 7, chapter 9 part 5, it now states that home educating parents demonstrate that homeschooling is in the best interest of the child. I'm not sure how that accords with parents' right to choose. After all, this requirement is unlikely to be part of the parents' requirements when they enrol their child in a private school. This point

seems like an over-reach and it's not hard to see how it may impact private schools down the track.

7. The removal of the provisional registration period; this means that if a family removes their child from school suddenly as a result of school trauma eg bullying, they will be marked as truant and be pursued accordingly until the parents can pull together a conclusive & high quality plan that is strictly aligned with the Australian curriculum, essentially overnight. To expect parents who are not already acquainted with the curriculum, while also managing the aftershock of whatever caused them to make such a big decision in the first place, is wildly unreasonable.

I'm concerned that the legislation has been introduced without proper consultation with current homeschooling 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 decide to educate their children at home, and how they go about ensuring the education provided is of high quality.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. It is my hope that, going forward, this legislation can suit the needs of all students across Queensland. I look forward to hearing your response about this important issue.

Sincerely,
Tim Anderson

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