

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 670
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Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee, I object to the proposed amendment to the Education Bill in QLD, in particular, to the changes impacting the homeschooling community. I object to the removal of provisional registration - this will cause increased stress and anxiety for families and of children who are being bullied or experiencing trauma in the school environment. The registration process can take months so removing the provisional registration could see these kids spending months longer than necessary in a hostile and damaging environment. These proposed changes will make it harder for parents to protect their children. Will it see an increase in child mental health problems and suicide rates? I also object to the need to follow and report on the national curriculum. A lot of homeschooling families have children who are neurodivergent, and who are homeschooling due to the flexibility and freedom choosing their own curriculum affords. Where is the evidence that the current system is not working? My main objection is the idea that homeschooling must be proven to be in the best interests of the child. Who is going to be determining this "best interest"? Is this not the right and responsibility of a parent? Is this not why parents currently decide to homeschool their kids - because it is in the best interest of their child? Taking these rights away from parents will be a violation! Who decodes the criteria for determining "best interest"? Will the government be able to force parents to send their children to school, against their will? This is a dangerous precedent.

Thank you for reading my submission, Danielle