

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 689
Submitted by: Amber Dias
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Submitter Comments:

RE: Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Provisions Bill 2024 I am writing as a parent who has opted to homeschool my child for the last 2.5 years. My family, child and I are very concerned about the Queensland Education Bill and its impact on the homeschooling community. We are registered with the Home Education department, but I am aware of others who homeschool, who choose not to register due to the onerous impact of the requirements, or due to trauma of their children coming out of the current school system. We chose to pull our daughter out of the mainstream schooling system due to bullying, my child's stress (at the age of 10!!) surrounding constant assessments and workload and a system that seemed more interested in the results of my child, rather than her style of learning and how to motivate and inspire her to achieve her dreams. The homeschooling journey has not necessarily been easy, as I have put hours of effort into sourcing resources and programs that suit my creative, right brain child, and have had to move my business into my home office to enable me to work part time hours. I have also put hours of effort each year into writing the required learning plans and reports of the HEU. Whilst we follow the National Curriculum for Maths and English, we use Simply Homeschool (which links to syllabus) for our other learning areas, but we actively look for learning experiences more attuned to our daughter who has a love of anything creative, and of a practical nature. We have, for instance, enrolled in sewing and art lessons, cooking experiences together and with a hired Japanese tutor, done bush survival skills, visited art galleries and the planetarium - all of these are amazing, practical experiences. Our daughter has gained confidence, resilience, self love and maturity through the last few years of homeschooling as we've honed in on her as a 'human' and not just another kid in a class of 30! I feel that having to report on all subject areas of the National Curriculum will be an arduous box ticking exercise, not at all focused on her interests (which lead most of our learning). Whilst I am degree qualified (Bach of Business), I have not learnt the art of box ticking against the curriculum criteria and do not wish to, as this is not serving the best interests of my child. Parents should be able to choose a curriculum/learning experiences that work for their child/ren. My main areas of concern: The National Curriculum is designed for large classrooms of children, not for a personalized teaching environment. The current registration and reporting system are working well, there is no need to change it. Instead of making things more prescriptive for homeschooling families, perhaps the Government should review the school system and find out why so many students are leaving it. The Bill proposal assumes that homeschooling is bad for children - I've only seen my child and those in her homeschooling network of friends, flourish and grow throughout this process! The Bill proposes that a government department has 'say' of what is in the 'best interests' of my child - this is over reach at it's best! I am also aware that although QLD has no official state homeschooling association, our trusted representatives were actively excluded from representation and consultation. We feel that we have had no voice in these proposed legislative changes, nor given the opportunity for representation by those who hold my views. I hope that this heartfelt submission is taken into consideration during the process of debating this proposed new legislation. Yours Sincerely, Amber Dias