

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 714
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Publication:
Attachments: No attachment
Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed changes to the Home Education legislation in Queensland. I DO NOT support some of these changes that have been introduced.

As a grandparent of three Homeschooling grandchildren, I feel compelled to address the discrepancy between the proposed changes and the realities of Homeschooling. I am worried about the impact that they will have on my grandchildren and the homeschooling community.

I am particularly concerned about:

- Who is responsible for determining if homeschooling is in the best interest of the child and
- Defining high-quality education as the Australian curriculum that homeschooled children must follow

My daughter knows and loves her children better than anyone else, she knows their unique needs, interests, and aspirations. There is no one better than a parent that can determine what is in the best interest of their child/children.

The suggestion to mandate the following of the Australian curriculum overlooks the diverse approaches and resources utilized by homeschooling families. The flexibility to choose their own curriculum that suits the individual learning style and interests of their children. The proposed changes appear disconnected from the actual needs and practices of the homeschooling community. Most families choose homeschooling for its flexibility and individualised approach to education.

Deciding to homeschool is not a decision parents take lightly. Many sacrifices are usually made career, income, cost, and time. Better community engagement needs to be done to better understand the needs of the homeschooling community and how you can best support them in supporting their children.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. It is my hope, 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,

Wendy McDonnell

