

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: I object - EDUCATION (GENERAL PROVISIONS) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024
Date: Monday, 18 March 2024 12:57:33 PM

Committee Secretary
Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Committee,

I strongly object to the proposals in the Education Bill 2024 in relation to homeschooling. Please listen to the voices of experienced and dedicated families who have made the significant choice to homeschool their children.

I am a homeschooling parent, and active participant in the homeschooling community. My child is thriving and learning based on the individualised home education environment which I currently provide.

Firstly, I disagree with the proposed change to the guiding principle that home education should be provided in a way that is in the best interests of the child. I am concerned about who determines what is in the best interests of each individual child and how this might be implemented. I believe parents are the right people to make these decisions, being the ones who know their children best. I disagree that the government or education department **representative** make this decision, and am concerned that this could be applied in different ways at different times. This is unnecessary and doesn't make sense as a way to protect children at risk.

Secondly, I am concerned about the proposed changes to force homeschool **students follow** the Australian Curriculum. Currently, parents **have choice** about what curriculum to follow, taking into account their child's specific needs and interests. Parents are required to plan and report on providing a high quality education, with some flexibility and individual choice. The ACARA approved Australian Curriculum does not need to be defined as the only way to provide a high quality education.

The Australian Curriculum was developed for schools, and for students learning in a school environment. It is a complex document and many schools employ curriculum specialists to interpret and implement this document. In order to implement this, we would decrease the practical, hands-on nature of our learning. In a 1:1 setting, this is not a high-quality education. We participate regularly in multiage group learning activities. We access lessons and information from other parents, community members, and subject matter experts. Sometimes, this can spark an interest or passion in our child which we can then support them to deeply explore. Enforcing the Australian Curriculum will severely limit this opportunistic learning.

In the Public Briefing this morning, 18 March 2024, it was shared that 20% of homeschooling children are being taught in line with the Australian Curriculum currently. That leaves 80% who aren't but are still providing a high quality education. Surely this speaks to other ways for a high quality education to be provided.

Thirdly, I'm worried about the increased reporting requirements. Having to report on every single learning area in the plan would be a huge increase in reporting work for parents. This time is better spent on facilitating learning opportunities for our children. The choice to home educate is serious and impacts our lives significantly, please believe that we do it in their best interests.

There is already a long delay with the Home Education Unit between when reports are submitted and when a response is received. My personal experience is that I have submitted a report and plan for approval by the Department of Education on January 28 and have not yet received a response; I have been advised that I should hope to receive a response by April 26. Three months! Has the committee considered how increased reporting requirements will be managed in a practical sense? Asking parents to report more when there is already inability to assess reports in a timely manner won't work.

My experience in the homeschooling community is that it is full of dedicated parents who make the choice to homeschool because it is right for their children. Please recognise this.

I hope that these proposed changes can be reviewed and reconsidered. They are not reasonable and do not support homeschooling families.

Kind Regards,
Rachael Caskie

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