

## Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 764  
**Submitted by:** Louise Harris  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

I would like to raise my concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the education bill that has recently been presented to parliament. As a home educating parent of a neurodiverse child, I do not support some of these changes that have been introduced and I am worried about the impact that they will have on my family and the homeschooling community. According to recent research collected by the Home Education Unit (2022), 2 in 3 home educating families have chosen to do so because of an underlying disability or health issue. They have chosen this avenue because of the flexibility it affords. This enables families to educate and care for their children in a manner that suits their learning style. Most of these students have left mainstream schooling because they could not learn in a traditional learning style. As a parent of a neurodivergent child, we have spent many hours consulting with specialists and allied health experts to determine how to best educate our child. We have liaised tirelessly with his former school to try to implement these recommendations. Unfortunately, what my child required was just not able to be achieved by his school. My child ended up in a terrible state of poor mental health by trying to fit into mainstream school. My child learns best with a project-led learning style. This enables him to become deeply immersed in an area of interest which suits his neurotype and this will often cross many key learning areas. Adhering to the Australian Curriculum would make this impossible for my child and would mean they are less likely to engage in their learning. My child's neurotype allows immense concentration and intrinsically motivated learning if the topic is of interest to him. Using a project-led learning style allows this level of engagement while covering many curriculum areas and ensuring he masters areas of learning before moving on. This learning style is personalized to ensure he learns in the best way possible, something which is not possible for him in mainstream school or if following the Australian Curriculum precisely. Researching and facilitating home education takes a lot of time and energy, but we have decided to follow this path with our child because they just don't respond to the Australian Curriculum. As a parent, it would be substantially easier to just enrol my child into distance education but we have already discovered that this method of learning would be detrimental to my child and to our family. In addition, the Australian Curriculum is an incredibly complex document that has been tailored to educate children in schools. Many schools employ curriculum specialists to interpret and implement this document. As a homeschooler, we don't have access to this level of expertise. In order to implement this, we would need to base our learning off over-simplified text books, rush through topics and stop the practical, hands-on nature of our learning. In a 1:1 setting, this is not a high quality education. I am also concerned about the increase in paperwork that would be required on behalf of homeschooling families and the increased workload for HEU to review and approve plan and report each year for the growing community of homeschooling. I'm very 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. 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 struggle the most to fit into mainstream education. We are not taking the easy way out, on the contrary we are taking on enormous workload and responsibility and making huge family sacrifices to ensure we find the best solution for our unique children. 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.