

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 765
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Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you as the members of the Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee. I am deeply concerned about the proposed Bill – Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. In particular, I am greatly concerned that this Bill would see all Queensland homeschooling families, forced to cease delivering a personalised learning plan tailored to their individual children's needs and replaced with having to implement the standardised Australian Curriculum.

Many homeschooling families, including my own, choose to homeschool because the school environment and the Australian Curriculum was not the right fit for their child. Not all children learn the same way, however, school teachers only deliver the curriculum one way. Sure, each teacher will teach mildly differently, but they do not and cannot, teach the same lesson 3,4,5 different ways at a time, to cater to every child. The curriculum also does not accommodate for a high-quality learning plan in my opinion. To have to follow a set curriculum, whether old or new and improved, is restrictive and limits children to a one size fits all model. A personally tailored plan, laid out with regards to a child's interests and abilities, that supports them in their weaknesses, that affords them enough time to truly grasp each concept, is a far higher quality of education. This is the kind of education we deliver as homeschooling parents.

I also disagree with the proposition that the Department would have authority over the parents, to decide what is in the best interest of the child, when determining if homeschooling is in the best interest of the child. How can a personalised learning plan, delivered by a loving Mother and/or Father, who take the time to directly support, nurture and guide their child, be determined by a complete stranger to be either satisfactory or not? And furthermore, how can they use this to reject a registration? This seems to me like a tremendous Government overreach and goes against Human Rights Laws. Parents have free choice when it comes to the education of their children and the Government should not be trying to impede on this. I see it only fit to ask the question, if the Public School System is so wonderful and the curriculum so high-quality, why are families and children leaving in droves, in seek of a more fulfilling and high-quality education through their own learning plans within the homeschooling realm? Majority of homeschooling families turn to education at home, because the school system has failed them, has started to affect their health, their mental health, their relationships, the way they look at the world, the way they see themselves and their overall attitude towards learning. Homeschooling saves these kids from a world of disappointment and torment, because they are afforded all of the things they do not and cannot get from school. Learning at home they feel safe, they feel loved, they feel valued, they feel empowered; their natural childlike curiosity and wonder returns and they immerse themselves in opportunities no school could ever offer them!

When it comes to the clauses pertaining to reporting, have you any idea how much time and resources the Department would need to read over reports outlining progress across 8 Key Learning Areas, for over 10,048 registered homeschoolers? This seems like an enormous amount of extra administration for both parents and the Department. Unless the plan is to only have the Department review 10% of said reports, then that is just insulting to the other

90% of parents that will be wasting precious time, writing reports that no one will review, when that time could be better spent with their child, emersed in their high-quality learning endeavours.

It seems to my that MP Di Farmer has missed the mark completely here when it comes to the homeschooling community and the introduction of this bill. The homeschooling families whom these changes will severely impact, have not been consulted on their thoughts or opinions on the matter and I find that absolutely outrageous. How can you claim to know what is in the best interest of the homeschooling community, if you have neglected to seek out their thoughts and opinions or consulted to see if they have concerns? Time and time again Di Farmer ignore the pleas of constituents to meet with them, to meet with their children, to have an open and honest conversation surrounding the proposed changes. Her silence speaks volumes.

Please make it known that I cannot and will not support this bill.

Regards,

Carl Horton – (Homeschooling Dad)

Please see my contact details for your records:

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