

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

**Submission No:** 790  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

I disagree with aspects of the 2024 Bill introduced to parliament to amend the Educational (General Provisions) Act 2006. Specifically, I object to the proposed changes to Home Education that would require an Australian Curriculum (ACARA) based education plan. I have four children. I also have a master's degree in education. I have always believed that education is critically important. I have sought out the best educators at all stages for my children and been heavily involved in their education. My children meet the criteria of academically gifted. Two have formal WISC reports showing IQ >130. The Queensland government recognises the requirement for these students' educational needs to be met. Yet, for the past seven years, I felt I was in an active "battle" with their school, to get them the quality of education I know they deserve. Unfortunately, in my opinion, over recent years the quality of school-based education for students at the higher achieving end has deteriorated alarmingly. The school system as it is now will not give my children the education they deserve to reach their full potential. And we aren't in a position to wait for improvement to come in time. So, all four are now home with me being educated. Clearly, I am doing the best for my children by homeschooling them. We are registered with HEU and follow individualised plans for each child based on their strengths, teaching them at the level they are at (not the majority of similar aged students that happen to be sitting in the same room as them). I highly value my freedom to choose to provide the best I can for my children, and do not want to see these rights eroded, limited or controlled. The proposed changes (Amendment of s 217) to require an ACARA based plan are contradictory to wanting a better education for our children. If it was a high-quality curriculum, the documented academic slide of Australian children would not be happening. Further, the also documented increase in the number of gifted homeschooled children would not be occurring. There are many proven educational approaches which are more suited to an individual and their specific needs. For example, an accelerated or compacted curriculum for gifted students is an internationally well-recognised method, with decades of data to prove its efficacy, yet Australia has a poor reputation for utilising such strategies. As a homeschooling parent, I need to be able to look further afield than ACARA for my children's curriculum. They have valid educational needs. I have removed them from traditional school to meet those needs. I have many specific issues with the ACARA curriculum, such as its spiralling approach to mathematics being unsuited to gifted learners, its complete omission of large and important sections of humanities and the sciences, its English area not being matched to the skills a student going into a STEM career will need, and so on. Homeschooling, I will be able to give my children the education they deserve by expanding the opportunities for them to study a broader range of subjects, topics and skills, and in more depth than ACARA dictates. This most likely will include acceleration to taking university subjects while 16 and 17 years old. Please do not legislate away my ability to give them this, by forcing us back into the ACARA "box".