

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 796
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Submitter Comments:

Hi, I am writing this submission to protest the proposals and amendments to the current education legislation in Queensland regarding home schooling. I have read the proposed Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 put forward by the Education Minister, Di Farmer and am concerned about the wording around parents having to demonstrate how homeschooling would be in 'the best interests of the child.' This is a move to take away the right of parents to make educational choices for their children and I can see no reason for this other than to take away parents' rights and give them to the government. I strongly disagree with this as I believe that parents are the ones who know their children best and who should have the right to make these choices about education. Secondly, there is a proposal to force families to use the Australian Curriculum and to require more extensive reporting and planning than the current significant requirements. Why should families who have chosen to homeschool, have to use the same curriculum as schools use? Parents want to homeschool so that they can tailor a quality education based on their knowledge and understanding of the individual child. There are many criticisms of the Australian Curriculum – just google it and you will see. Furthermore, why should families who homeschool have to do far more reporting and planning than school teachers do? The current system works well and the Home Education Unit (HEU) does a great job. I am a homeschool graduate myself. My parents made the decision to homeschool right from the start and they also chose a curriculum that is not the Australian Curriculum. I graduated with honours and now I work as a software developer (as well as in Research and Development) for an engineering company. I started working for them as soon as I was legally old enough, so about six years now, first on individual projects, then part time and now full-time. They also support me in studying a Certificate IV in IT. I play guitar in our church band and teach R.I. in a couple of the local schools. I also help out at the local interschool chess tournaments as a moderator as I've aged out of the tournaments myself. The other children in the family have various needs, skills and abilities and my parents tailor their education to each individual. They are all happy and thriving. I have not been disadvantaged by being homeschooled. I haven't been disadvantaged by using another curriculum other than the Australian Curriculum. Please don't punish homeschooling parents who are already doing an excellent job in providing a quality education for their children. Thanks, [REDACTED]