

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 812
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Submitter Comments:

Dear Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee members, My name is Danyelle, and I am a Holistic Counsellor & Art Therapist. I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed changes to home education laws and requirements in our state. As a parent who has successfully homeschooled our three children for the past six years, I believe it is crucial to voice my objections to these changes and their potential impact on our family and the broader homeschooling community. Our decision to homeschool is deeply rooted in our personal beliefs and lifestyle. We prioritise holistic well-being, ensuring that our children's education encompasses mental, emotional, and physical aspects, rather than solely focusing on academic achievement. Homeschooling has allowed us to tailor their education to their individual needs and interests, providing a comprehensive learning experience that goes beyond the confines of a traditional curriculum. Furthermore, homeschooling has been particularly beneficial for our children, all of whom are on the autism spectrum. We found the school environment was not conducive to well-being for our eldest child, who thrived once we transitioned to homeschooling, and we have continued to find it our best option for our other two children. Our children have excelled in this environment, learning at their own pace and surpassing their peers in many areas. For example, our son learned to read at the age of eight, much later than the traditional school age, but quickly progressed to reading novels well beyond his years due to his readiness and enthusiasm for learning. Additionally, our family's lifestyle, living in a self-built motorhome and travelling around Queensland and other states, provides unique and enriching learning experiences for our children. The proposed changes, such as the mention of home visits in the briefing on the 18th and increased reporting requirements, would significantly impact our ability to provide this diverse and experiential learning environment for our children. I must express my firm opposition to the proposed changes, as they would force us to adhere to a standardised curriculum that does not align with our children's learning style and needs. The proposed legislation fails to acknowledge the already high standard of education provided to homeschooling children and imposes unjustifiably increased workload and reporting requirements on home educators, raising several pressing concerns for our family. Over the past six years, I have observed that my children learn best through inquiry and interest-led learning, engaging deeply when they are passionate about a topic. A one-size-fits-all approach would stifle their natural curiosity and hinder their academic and personal growth. Additionally, it fails to provide for university, alternative learning styles, or international curriculum programs that many children pursue, limiting the children's educational opportunities. Finally, the requirement to report on 8 different Key Learning Areas is excessive. This places a significant burden on homeschooling parents and takes away valuable learning and planning time with our children. Reporting should be simplified to ensure that it does not detract from the quality of education provided at home. Moreover, I am worried about the lack of transparency and public consultation surrounding these changes. As stakeholders in our education system, I believe it is imperative for the voices of educators, parents, students, and community members to be heard and considered in any decision-making process that impacts our ability to educate our children to the highest standard. The proposed changes also include substantially increased workload and reporting requirements for home educators, which would be overwhelming and burdensome for families like ours. Additionally, the one-size-fits-all approach does not recognize the diverse needs of our children or what is in their best interest. There is also no provision for university, alternative learning styles, or international curriculum programs, limiting our children's future opportunities. Furthermore, the consultation process by Di Farmer and the EGPA has been

limited and biased, showing a lack of understanding of the homeschooling community. If this bill becomes law, homeschooling families will lose their right to choose how to educate and support their child in a way that is best for them. In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the proposed education legislation and to recognize the value and benefits of homeschooling for families like ours. We are dedicated to providing our children with a holistic education that nurtures their well-being and prepares them for a successful future. I implore you to advocate for policies that support and empower homeschooling families to continue providing high-quality education tailored to their children's needs. Thank you for considering my concerns. I look forward to your response on this important issue. Sincerely, Dannyelle Tansey