

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 814
Submitted by: James Tansey
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Submitter Comments:

Dear Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee Members, I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent education legislation changes that have been proposed in our state. My name is James, and I am a Holistic Counsellor & Bricklayer. As a constituent and a member of the community, I believe it is crucial to voice my objections to the potential impact of these changes on our education system. Our family has embraced homeschooling for the past six years, and it has been a transformative journey for us. We made this choice based on our personal beliefs and lifestyle, placing holistic well-being at the forefront of our children's education. This approach allows us to ensure that our children's education encompasses mental, emotional, and physical aspects, providing them with a comprehensive learning experience that goes beyond traditional academic boundaries. Homeschooling has been particularly beneficial for our children, all of whom are on the autism spectrum. The traditional school environment was not conducive to our eldest child's well-being, and she thrived once we transitioned to homeschooling. Our other two children have also excelled in this environment, learning at their own pace and surpassing their peers in many areas. For example, our son learned to read at eight and quickly progressed to reading novels well beyond his years due to his readiness and enthusiasm for learning. 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 mentioned potential home visits and increased reporting requirements, would significantly impact our ability to provide this diverse and experiential learning environment. The proposed legislation raises several significant concerns that require attention. Firstly, it would compel us to follow a standardised curriculum that does not cater to our children's unique learning styles and needs. This legislation overlooks the high standard of education provided by homeschooling families, imposing unjustifiably increased workload and reporting requirements on home educators. Additionally, the demand to report on 8 different Key Learning Areas is excessive and diminishes valuable learning and planning time with our children. Moreover, I am worried about the lack of transparency and public consultation surrounding these changes. As a stakeholder 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. In light of these concerns, I urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed education legislation and to prioritise the best interests of our rapidly growing and proactive home educating community. I implore you to advocate for a more inclusive and collaborative approach to policymaking that values input from all stakeholders and ensures the integrity and quality of our education system. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for considering my concerns. I look forward to your response on this important issue. Sincerely, James Tansey Holistic Counsellor