

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

1. Guiding principle: at present parents determine what is in the best interest of their children. Legislating this clause takes that right away from parents. There is no detail given in the amendment saying who or how 'the best interests of the child' will be determined. 2. At the moment a 'high quality education' is not defined in law, this amendment will define it as ACARA's Australian Curriculum. Parents can now choose any resources or materials that provide a high quality education that best suits the individual needs and learning styles of their children. If this amendment passes this will be limited to what ACARA defines as a 'high quality education'. It is used in QLD schools. A large percentage of registered home educated students have moved from school to home, largely because ACARA's Australian Curriculum have already failed to meet their children's needs. 3. For years QLD home educators, unlike those in other states, have been able to withdraw their children and prepare a learning plan to fulfil their registration requirements without risk of their child being truant - provisional registration covered this. It is something we in other states have wanted. Losing this provision is a backward step and puts unnecessary stress on QLD home educating families. 4. Reporting requirements vary across Australia but most of agree that the burden placed on QLD home educators is already onerous, with the necessity to provide detailed paired examples of learning in Maths, English and 1 other subject. The amendment will see this increase to all 8 curriculum subject areas. This will increase the workload not only of the home educators preparing the report, but the officers working in the Home Education Unit who have to assess them. Who will be funding this extra workload? Will the HEU's workforce be increased to cover it? And it is unnecessary - as shown by the fact that every year thousands of families registrations are renewed based on the evidence provided, which has clearly demonstrated home educating students are currently already receiving 'high quality education'.