

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

After reading the details of your bill I am concerned as to the negative impact it will have on both the homeschooling community and providers of curriculum for this community. Firstly I do not believe any further restrictions and requirements need to be implemented in regards to homeschooling and the way in which curriculums are accepted by the HEU. The open ended way in which the bill is presented also concerns me as this opens the door to any governmental body having the ability to push a particular bias onto what curriculum is deemed acceptable to them. This is evident already in public schools and how they are strongly influenced by political agendas. I also acknowledge that this is a huge factor in the rise of homeschooling around Australia. Why would you apply these same principles that are clearly unsatisfactory in public schools to the homeschooling community? This makes no sense to me. Other than that it implicates a desire to control and force which are not acceptable governmental qualities in a democratic society. Secondly, homeschooling provides the opportunity for parents to design an education that fits the needs of their children more effectively than that in a mainstream school setting. How by mandating a particular Australian curriculum based program will this allow for the flexibility and unique design that homeschooling combines? I believe this amendment is unnecessary and also completely irrelevant to what homeschooling is. I have been a homeschool educator for the past 3 years and in my interactions with other homeschoolers I have noted the dedication, effort and intentionality that has come along with their decision to homeschool. The ability to choose from the vast array of curriculums has allowed them to create a superior educational experience which has allowed their child/ren to achieve far superior results to their mainstream school student peers. Why would you mandate a curriculum which has fallen behind in comparison with countries around the world and disallow parents to offer a much better alternative. My perspective after pondering this bill is that perhaps the leaders who influence the way in which Australian education is formed and conducted, should change and make it better not force it onto those who have found it wanting and unsuitable for their children. A fellow homeschooler commented 'Do not mandate the mediocre'. I wholeheartedly agree and my advice would be that Education Queensland should take this as a hint that their system needs change. I sincerely hope that the message from thousands of homeschoolers throughout Queensland is heard and that the amendments concerning homeschooling curriculum are not passed.