

## Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 849  
**Submitted by:** Katie Jones  
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### Submitter Comments:

I live with my husband and three children, ages 12, 10 and 7 on a cattle station far enough from town that there are only two practical options available to us for school: Distance Education, or Home Schooling. We choose to home school. I will admit that this choice was an intimidating one. I worried about hindering my children's long term prospects. I want the absolute best for my children in life, and part of that is wanting to make sure they are well-equipped to go out into the world and for whatever their chosen career paths may be. Originally, I had intended to teach my children via Distance Education. My two oldest children attended a State School when they were younger, and it was midway through the school year when they left it. I decided to Home School them for the remainder of the year, with the intention of enrolling them in a DE program in the new year. Ultimately, our family made the decision at the end of that year that we would continue through the Queensland Home Education Unit (HEU). My first experience with home education came prior to our move, during COVID. It became clear to me then that my eldest had gaps in his education, and was struggling with some of his subjects. He was also a very nervous, jumpy kid, which I thought was just part of his personality (I now know it is not). Home schooling means that I can tailor our curriculum around my children's interests and learning styles. We can dwell as long as we want on topics my children find particularly interesting. I am also able to plan it around our very active lifestyle. There are few things my children enjoy more than a day off school to go work with Daddy. When I develop our plan for the year, I make a list of subjects I think are important, and then ask the children if there are things they would like to explore. We make sure our plans for the year incorporate at least one unit of particular interest to each child. I also factor in any trips I know we will be taking, and educational experiences that will be available through them those, as well as any locally available ones. My eldest will be going to boarding school next year. I am conscious of the fact that this will mean he will need to reintegrate into the Australian Curriculum, and had this in mind when I designed (with the help of a certified teacher) his education plan for this year. As a parent living in the bush, the majority of other parents I come in contact with teach their children via Distance Education. Almost universally, the feedback I get is that they are stressed, and their kids are stressed. They are under constant pressure to get the Australian Curriculum work in correctly, and on time. Meanwhile, Distance Ed teachers are not given the time to offer one-on-one or small group extra help to students. How does a stressful, one-size-fits-all approach offer a higher quality of learning than what I currently offer my children? People home school for a wide range of reasons. Many of us 'home-schoolers' would not agree with one another on political, religious and social issues. What the majority of us do agree on, however, is the deep love we have for our children and that we have their best interests in mind. I do not believe that this bill, in its current form, is in the best interest of my children.