

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

**Submission No:** 866  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

This Bill essentially strips our children of their right to access quality education. One that is tailored to their unique interests and needs. Our kids deserve better than equality. They deserve equity and justice. My child is PDA AuDHD and we homeschool out of necessity. Besides the environment of mainstream schooling being entirely unsuitable for our child to be able to access learning (see Maslows Pyramid), the ACARA curriculum is entirely unsuited to their learning needs. Their PDA Autism profile means that in order for them to be able to learn, they need an enquiry based curriculum that honours their strengths and supports their struggles, not a 'one size fits all' box ticking checklist. For example, according to ACARA my 7 year old child is at a Year 7 and 8 level in some areas of Science, Year 2 in others. As for literacy they are working at a Prep level. They struggle to count past 10. They can't follow traditional phonics models like 'Sounds Write' or 'Science of Reading'. They can't do activities with a set outcome. All of their learning has to be incidental or their nervous system is activated and they lose their ability to learn. Explain how this Bill is in the best interests of my child's education? If this Bill is passed we will also lose access to the Diverse Learners plan option which we currently use via HEU. It's well established that neurodivergent people have 'spikey' skill sets and tend to have atypical learning styles. Without the ability to tailor our children's learning goals, how will this Bill serve neurodiverse learners? It seems that they haven't been considered at all. The additional reporting and planning requirements are Sisyphean and seem to be designed as an obstacle to parents accessing homeschool. Homeschooling is already a difficult task. We desperately want our kids to be able to access an education that will ensure their quality of life as they mature and become adults. We sacrifice our incomes, the custodianship that mainstream schools offer and so much of our time. All because, at least for neurodivergent learners, mainstream school and the ACARA curriculum, in most cases no matter how many accommodations are made, just can't meet our children's learning needs. It appears this Bill's only tangible goal is to make a quality education less accessible to children and families who already have innumerable obstacles hindering their quality of life. So again, HOW does this Bill propose to serve diverse learners who NEED access to tailored and adaptable education? I oppose the inclusion of the definition of a 'high quality education' being limited to the Australian Curriculum. We find this restrictive and will make it difficult to be able to provide a high quality education in the home learning environment, for children with divergent needs and differing learning styles. I oppose the changes in the guiding principles of the legislation that state that 'parents have the responsibility for choosing a suitable education environment for their children' and that home education should be provided in a way that 'is in the best interests of the child'. We believe the bill doesn't address who decides what is in the child's best interests and is open to interpretation. We believe this takes away a Queenslanders' right to homeschool and puts onus on the parent to prove they can home educate. I oppose the increased reporting requirements included in the legislation. The information already provided by home educators far exceeds the reporting required by Education Queensland teachers and to provide this information for every single subject is unreasonable. Including the provision to demonstrate educational progress for each subject also exceeds the requirements for schools and teachers in Queensland and is unacceptable.