

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

**Submission No:** 876  
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**Submitter Comments:**

I am the grandparent of home-educated children and I strongly oppose the proposed legislation that will change home-schooling in Queensland for the worse.

I have watched my 8 grandchildren grow from babies to teenagers. Three are home-educated and 5 are educated in a private school. I stand firm in the belief that parents are the ones responsible for determining which form of education is in the best interest of their children - not government. I do not think it to be equitable, nor necessary, that my home-educating daughter might be required under this legislation to justify her choice to home-educate, whilst my other daughter would not have to provide any reason whatsoever for the educational choice that she has made to send her children to school. The bias against home-educating families that is demonstrated in this Bill is inappropriate and unnecessary.

My home-educated grandchildren are enjoying their education and they lead rich and varied lives with a wide range of educational experiences. They have explored many parts of Australia, seen other cultures overseas firsthand and are progressing well academically. They are growing in knowledge, ability, wisdom and maturity - goals their parents have for them, which would not, and could not, be replicated in schools.

My oldest home-schooling grandchild is in Grade 11. She has just started a Certificate II in Animal Care at UQ Skills (Gatton campus). She continues to study Mathematics, English, Modern History and Financial Literacy at home as well. These are subjects that allow her to pursue her interests and will provide her with necessary practical skills and knowledge. She plans to proceed to a Cert IV in Vet Nursing next year. She hasn't decided yet if she wants to study further at university after that, but she will finish the Cert IV with an ATAR score, so that path will be open to her if she wishes to take it.

This grand-daughter has never been educated to the national curriculum, nor is she completing the Senior Subject Syllabus. And yet, she is making excellent progress towards her career goals without any of the stress, anxiety or depression so often associated with Years 11 and 12. Rather, she is relaxed, happy and has plenty of time to pursue her varied interests of quilting, crochet, babysitting, ultimate disc, running a market stall to sell her hand-made lino printed tote bags and spending time with her many friends.

My younger two home-schooling grand-daughters are in Grade 8. They, too, are studying Modern History and they enjoy it very much. Their studies are taking them far deeper into the subject than the Australian Curriculum would permit. They also follow a comprehensive English program that is based on the Classical philosophy of education. They both enjoy reading and writing, and one has won two writing competitions. Their mother, who happens to have been a primary teacher before home-educating her own children, also marks NAPLAN tests each year. Having borne direct witness through this marking to the standard of work being produced by students of the national curriculum, she is confident that the Classical Curriculum that she uses is producing more than satisfactory results for her own children. For Mathematics, my grand-daughters utilize an online program called Maths Online. It follows fairly closely to the Australian curriculum and has been an adequate program for their mathematics education.

I am sure you can see by these examples above, that a huge benefit of home-education is that it enables parents to select just the right approach and curriculum to best suit the individual needs of each of their children. Whilst my daughter has elected to use a national curriculum based program for their Mathematics education, she has sourced curriculum from multiple other sources for all other subject areas, finding them to be far superior in meeting the learning needs of her children. The proposed legislation would strip home-

educating families of this great freedom and benefit of home-education. I therefore strongly implore you to remove the requirement that home-educated students must study a program that is consistent with the ACARA curriculum.

In regards to home-education, this legislation shows an overall lack of understanding of how important a flexible, high-quality education is to homeschool families. Please do not impose 'solutions' to problems that do not exist among the vast majority of home-educating families.