

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

**Submission No:** 877  
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**Submitter Comments:**

As a grandfather, I wholeheartedly advocate for the home education of my granddaughters and I do not support most of the changes that are proposed for home education in Queensland.

By home educating my granddaughters, my daughter and son-in-law have had the opportunity to tailor their education to their individual interests, learning styles, and pace of development. This flexibility has allowed them to foster a love for learning and exploration that extends far beyond the confines of a regular classroom environment. Moreover, home education has offered the chance for my granddaughters to receive a comprehensive and values-based education. They can incorporate lessons on morality, empathy, and critical thinking into their daily curriculum, instilling in them a strong sense of ethics and integrity. In a society where these qualities are often undervalued, I believe it is crucial to prioritize their development alongside academic knowledge. Through home education, my granddaughters have been empowered to become well-rounded individuals who are not only academically proficient but also compassionate and principled members of society.

Furthermore, home education provides an unparalleled opportunity for family bonding and connection. By spending each day together in the pursuit of knowledge and the creations of shared memories, my granddaughters have developed close and warm relationships with one another, with their parents, and with other members of their extended family (including myself!) and social network. Whether it's engaging in hands-on science experiments, exploring nature, or delving into literature, every moment becomes a cherished opportunity for shared discovery and growth.

I believe that the proposed legislation will stifle, rather than enhance, the educational outcomes of my home-schooling granddaughters. I therefore advocate that the committee recommend the following:

- Remove the provision that home-educators must provide evidence that home education is in the child's 'best interest'. This statement is vague and open to a range of interpretations that potentially could restrict parent's freedom to home educate their children. It is also discriminatory in that parents who choose to send their children to school do not need to provide any evidence that that educational setting they have chosen for their child is in their 'best interest'.
- Remove the provision that home-educators must provide a program of education that is consistent with the national curriculum. My daughter already spends incredible amounts of time selecting curriculum and developing programs that will best meet the specific needs of my granddaughters. Demonstrating that these plans are 'consistent with the national curriculum' is an overly burdensome and pointless expectation. For the past 12 years my daughter has submitted her plans to the HEU. These plans have been approved, without fail, as providing a 'high quality' education for my

granddaughters. There is no justification that now a 'high quality' education must correlate only to the national curriculum.

- Keep the new provision that allows home educated students to be registered for home-schooling in the year that they turn 18. This will be beneficial for two of my granddaughters, allowing them to remain registered for home education into their Grade 12 year.