

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 895
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To the Committee,

I am writing to express my concern with regards to the proposed changes to the legislation regarding Home Education. I am **opposed** to the changes proposed in the Bill which Qld Education Minister Di Farmer introduced on 6th March 2024.

My personal experience, as a Mum of four (4) who is currently Home Schooling two (2) of my children is that I am not opposed to Mainstream Schooling, however this system does not suit or support every child's learning abilities. I am currently Home Schooling due to neurodivergence and mental health surrounding extreme bullying. We did not start out Home Schooling, but after persisting in the mainstream system while our children's mental health deteriorated to the point of self-harming, we sought therapy. It was here that we learned the mainstream schooling environment was not suitable and we were encouraged to seek alternatives.

Our decision to Home Educate was not made lightly and I can assure you it is not a course we have taken for convenience or fun! I have spent a great deal of time preparing a quality education plan that is interest based. Despite the fact that Home Schooling is more expensive, extremely time consuming and limits my ability to do secular work, my children are thriving!

Under the new legislation I would be expected to follow the ACARA and report on all subjects, despite no clear explanation of where the funding would come from to monitor all this extra reporting and from what I understand the Department of Home Education Staff are extremely busy already. If I am to replicate the school environment it would be detrimental to my children's mental health, as currently they are learning at their pace and on some subjects have exceeded the Australian Curriculum for their ages.

I have three (3) main concerns which I would like to be addressed please:

1. Under the new legislation, who will be responsible for deciding if it is in the "best interests" of a child to be permitted to Home Educate, how will this be determined and at whose cost?
2. If we are to follow the ACARA and report on all subjects, will the Government be providing the resources to parents to do so, or are we to cover all costs involved?
3. How will the Government assist the Home Education Unit Staff with this increased workload?

In conclusion, I feel that the Home Education System is currently working very well for us and has been the very best decision we have made for our boys and it is my hope that the Government does not pass this legislation.

Many Thanks & Kind Regards

Candice Knudson