

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#); educationyouthjustice@ministerial.qld.gov.au; [Moggill Electorate Office](#); [Anastacia Palaszczuk Ministerial](#); cassandra.fernando.mp@aph.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission in regard to the objection of The Education Bill 2024
Date: Sunday, 24 March 2024 11:09:54 AM

Dear Committee, and significant others,

I strongly object to the proposals in The Education Bill 2024, specifically those that set to endanger the way Homeschool is currently being done in Queensland, and potentially have a flow on affect to other states, and territories in this country.

I understand that the guiding principles proposed, will be holding us to a higher standard than schools, forcing us to prove that our children are progressing in all subjects at reporting.

I think that the removal of time to prepare a thorough a well researched submission for a child's education plan, by taking away the provisional registration, is really unfair, and will mean that families will be coerced to keep children longer in a damaging situation in order to get full homeschool registration through.

I disagree that the National Curriculum is the best fit for all children, and by making it the standard in homeschool, you are removing choice for many families who by necessity need to follow a purposeful plan to impart essential living, capacity and wellbeing skills that have been lost due to trauma in schools.

I am a homeschooling parent in Victoria.

I am the mother of three children (16,12 and 8) with diagnosis' of ASD with a Pathological Demand Avoidance profile and Generalised Anxiety Disorder.

For the past ten years I have struggled to find the right fit where my children could be educated and could thrive. Homeschool in Victoria is enabling my older two to recover from burnout and explore what skills they retained and what skills I need to find a new way to impart.

We have tried local the public school in NSW, then moved to small country school in NSW (less than 80 children).

We then moved our family to Hervey Bay Queensland hoping for a slower lifestyle that might suit better and enrolled our girls in private catholic school.

My eldest, by the end of year 6 was in high trauma, so we removed her to enrol in private Distance Education, where I worked very closely with the inclusion department to advocate and modify for her.

Over three years we did everything we could to reduce her workload and modify her subjects to keep her alive, and I say that literally.

Her mental health due to school trauma and complex comorbidities of ASD (Hyper mobility, Pots) had her bed bound. My other child as she became older struggled more and more in private school.

We moved to Victoria just over a year ago for greater medical access for my eldest, and my two youngest enrolled in the local primary school. Things started well, but when My middle child lost her teacher due to job change and the school could not find a stable replacement, 'school can't' became our daily, and her mental health went downhill.

School tried to help but it wasn't enough. I enrolled her with VRQA.

We left the school system in two cases, in dire circumstances.

My youngest is in school. For now he is ok, but I monitor him closely.

I have done everything in my power to do what I believe is the best I can do in circumstances I never thought I would have to.

Our approach to homeschooling is very flexible. Some weeks we are on 7days, we find learning in all things, we teach life skills, we teach emotional regulation and prioritise self care. We are grateful for the flexibility we can use to educate my children in Victoria, and restore their mental health. We never planned to be a

homeschool family. We never planned to be a family struggling on one income.

I ask that this bill does not go through in Queensland. We were part of the Homeschool community in Hervey Bay, and many of our friends still are.

Making homeschool parents need to further jump hoops to survive, as well as giving their children the time and space to learn in their own way, is cruel.

Homeschool families share knowledge, experience, resources, and are always learning to give each individual child the best possible for their future. It is already exhausting, and our research and time planning and collaborating is endless. We do not need to be spending additional precious time caught up reporting for eight subject areas and justifying progress.

There are many of us out there supporting each other. Many of us already feel pushed out of the mainstream education system for lack of inclusivity and understanding of our unique sets of needs. Please don't threaten the safety of where we are now by putting more pressure on us to find ways to jump through hoops. Please allow homeschool families to continue supporting our children to the best of our abilities. Many of these kids are in burnout and still recovering from trauma. Expectation of progression is unrealistic in these cases. Flexibility in content and delivery is essential.

I thank you for your consideration and time.

Kind Regards

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Could personal details please be suppressed if you wish to publicly publish any part of these submission?