

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by: Belinda O'Rourke
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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Homeschooling: proposed changes
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To whom it may concern,

I wish to register that I do not approve of the proposed changes to Homeschooling in Queensland, specifically involving planning or reporting to the framework of the Australian National Curriculum.

That is, I have personally experienced the benefits of flexibility in homeschooling, as children and young people's individual circumstances, skills and abilities widely differ. I feel that adhering to the National Curriculum may limit opportunities and/or place undue stress on families, particularly if there is a requirement to "demonstrate progress" in all subjects every year. For example, children with learning difficulties or giftedness may benefit from the quantity or depth of overall subjects being altered for that child's specific needs. My Dyslexic daughter with ADHD, for example, focused on a reduced subject load (such as not learning another language, reduced English curriculum) and is now studying a Bachelor of Business at Uni at 17 years old, as well as working part-time as a Barista Trainer in a vocational college, and enjoying life. She homeschooled from year 4 due to bullying, primarily because of her learning differences. My academically gifted daughter also homeschooled from year 8 (she was at a selective school but asked to try homeschooling due to boredom with the crowded curriculum, such as boring and/or repetitive topics and tasks), and was thus able to start single university level subjects in chemistry, psychology and human health in year 9, along with following her many other interests. As a result, she is now studying an undergraduate Doctor of Medicine degree at University at 19 years old. Homeschooling allowed our family the flexibility to tailor our children's pathways to their interests and abilities as well as enjoy a very close and loving relationship. We are secular and not anti-establishment, we just want our children to be happy and healthy, and, although not planned, homeschooling ended up being the best choice for us.

Finally, I also do not agree to the guiding principle that homeschooling must be proven to be in the best interests of the child, as this is open to a wide variety of subjective interpretations and could thus result in children being prevented from homeschooling in highly suitable circumstances because of a narrow conceptualisation of "best interests" by one Authorised Person.

Kind Regards,

Belinda O'Rourke
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Sent from my iPhone