

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Cc: [Bundamba Electorate Office](#)
Subject: Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024
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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you with my concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the education bill that has recently been presented to parliament. As a home educating parent, I do not support some of these changes that have been introduced and I am worried about the impact that they will have on my family and the homeschooling community.

I am an Australian with dual citizenship, having been born in the USA and living most of my life here in Australia. I was personally home educated as a child and only completed a portion of my schooling in an Australian public school. I still received an OP 3 even though I had not received most of my schooling through the Australian curriculum. I didn't even need the high level OP as the Australian university course I chose had a portfolio-based entry and I received my first preference placement in a Fine Arts degree. After graduation, I went on to study again, in an entirely different field, Health Science, where I received consistent 7s in my subjects. I mention all of this to say that I was homeschooled and was able to excel in higher level learning across multiple subject areas because I love learning, not because I was taught using the Australian curriculum. The love of learning is a gift my mother gave me by home educating me in a relaxed environment that was focussed on me as an individual learner and our family circumstances. I was not pressed to conform to a particular curriculum.

This is what I want to give my children. I, and most of the home educating families I know, are constantly thinking about our children and the best way we can help them to learn. It is often what we discuss when we are together. The amount of time we put into our plans for our children's education and the thought we give to it is substantial. When things don't work, we seek alternatives because we are constantly seeing how our children are responding and learning. Education can not be a one-size-fits-all approach for we are all individuals. Our children are incredibly precious to us and we want to see them thrive. Who is better to know what is in the best interest of our children, than the parents themselves, who are with them day in and day out, seeing what their unique interests are and how they best learn?

Additionally, many of my friends have neurodivergent children who would not learn best with the Australian curriculum. Many of my friends chose to home educate so they could do things differently to the way they are done in mainstream schooling. That is part of the beauty of home education: the freedom to utilise the many and varied, wonderful education resources available to us from all over the world. As a multi-cultural family, I believe that we should be free to use resources that also represent our heritage, which have been produced in that culture and are thus not strictly aligned to the Australian curriculum but are nonetheless excellent educational resources. If we are forced to teach according to the schedule of the Australian Curriculum, all of the beautiful and excellent resources that we are currently able to use would be pushed to the side as we do not want to overburden our children. And what of the alternate philosophies on education that do not fit within the Australian curriculum?

The essence of homeschooling lies in the freedom it affords children to learn in a manner that aligns with their individual interests, abilities, and learning styles. By imposing a mandated curriculum, these proposed changes would impede my children's autonomy and

hinder their ability to pursue education in a way that best suits their needs.

In today's interconnected world, where the internet provides instant global access to a wealth of educational resources and innovative curricula, it's imperative that we reconsider the notion of a one-size-fits-all approach to education.

The Australian Curriculum, while well-intentioned, may not necessarily meet the diverse needs and aspirations of all students. In a landscape where alternative educational pathways are readily available, why should homeschooled children be confined to a single curriculum? Instead, we should embrace the richness of educational diversity and empower parents to choose the educational approach that best aligns with their children's interests, abilities, and aspirations.

Rather than enforcing adherence to a standardized curriculum, I propose that we allocate resources towards funding research and innovation in home education. By investing in comprehensive studies that explore the effectiveness of various homeschooling methodologies and curricular approaches, we can better understand how to support homeschooling families in providing high-quality education for their children.

I'm concerned that the legislation has been introduced without proper consultation with current homeschooling families and I hope that you will take my feedback into consideration.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. It is my hope that, going forward, this legislation can suit the needs of all students across Queensland. I look forward to hearing your response about this important issue.

Sincerely,

Chaela Bazley

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Personal Submission: not on behalf of an organisation

