

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Proposed changes to homeschool regulations
Date: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 3:54:41 PM

Dear committee,

I wanted to write to share my concerns about the proposed changes to the regulations of home education in Queensland.

I am a mother in Tasmania, currently in my 13th year of educating my children at home. To give you a glimpse into our lives- I have a Bachelor of Arts majoring in French and English. I am passionate about linguistics and literature and use the opportunity of home education to share French, great literature, poetry, classical and contemporary music, gardening, science, sourdough bread baking, community service, geography, great art and much more, with my children. Their lives are full and vibrant. They have many friends, each have individual interests and passions which we make room for in their education and their lives. They also have enough free time- because of the efficiency of home education- to spend a good amount of time outside, playing in the fresh air and with our animals.

I am concerned that the requirement to conform to the Australian curriculum would be an onerous and burdensome added task for home educating families, which would take time away from the very important job of doing the educating. For teachers in the system, teaching other people's children and being paid by the government, this may be necessary, but in a home situation where the parents are putting in so much extra time and effort to give their children this personalised, quality education, this would serve only to add pressure and take up time in their already very full lives. For myself, in Tasmania, where we are not required to adhere to the Australian curriculum, I already write a long and thorough report every year, detailing what my children have learned, the progress they've made and our plans for the following year, in varied subjects. It takes a fortnight of crammed time and extra family help to get those reports written, and that is without the added burden of teaching (and proving it) to the curriculum.

This requirement also doesn't acknowledge that there are many other valuable things we could teach our children, that may not be included in the curriculum but suit our individual children much better, to encourage and equip them in the pursuit of their personal passions, talents and careers. As it stands, I'm able to adapt to include my children's interests and to quickly pivot, as needed. It is also an issue of freedom, for parents to make unique choices for their children, and not have to follow the government's guidelines, which may not be best for our individual children.

The section that requires proving progress in each subject is concerning too...as this is not even a requirement for schools. Many students are behind and not making any progress in subjects at school, there shouldn't be a higher standard for home education. Again, this also adds another level of burden on the home educating parent that doesn't necessarily bring any benefit to the child.

As a parent who is educating my children at home, I can assure you that I and my home educating friends are all putting so much time, effort, and concern into our children's education. We take it seriously and are so invested in their success and their well-being that it is what has brought about our decisions to educate at home, despite extra financial cost and sacrifice of career and free time. We are absolutely determined to give our children the best education for them.

I am also concerned with the section which doesn't allow for provisional approval before formal registration. If a parent has made the decision to educate at home, for the child's sake, this interim time could be vital to the child's mental, physical or emotional wellbeing or safety.

My greatest concern, though, is the regulation which mentions "the best interest of the child." The right person to decide the best interest of the child is that child's parents. The government should not be making that decision unless abuse or neglect is at play and

intervention is needed for the child's safety. In reference to education, this is a subjective decision, one which hinges on personal and close knowledge of the child, and, if taken out of the hands of the parents, impinges on basic freedoms and parental rights.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration, I am open to being contacted for further information if desired.

Anita Morgan

