

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 961
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20th March, 2024

Committee Secretary
Education, Employment, Training and
Skills Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the recent education legislation changes that have been proposed in our state. As a home educating parent, I do not support some of these changes and I am concerned about the impact that it will have on my family and others in the homeschooling community.

My first concern with the proposed legislation is the requirement that the Australian Curriculum must be used to plan and report on all subjects. I am concerned about the overwhelming breadth of the curriculum in the planning, then teaching of content and assessment of work. The Australian Curriculum is designed for teachers to educate children in schools and with the assistance from curriculum specialists. I believe that the Australian Curriculum does not allow for individualised, hands-on learning that is so important in-home education. Then to use the Achievement Standards to report on children, does not allow consideration for the uniqueness of the individual child nor does it demonstrate the areas where they have been successful.

Secondly, the abolishment of provisional registration will be at the detriment of the child. Homeschooling is not a decision that is made lightly or without reason. It is not fair for a child to wait in a school environment while the parent prepares, submits, and waits for a response to their education plans. It is also reasonable to give the child and parent time together to assess the child's needs and develop a plan that is suitable for the child. Having 60 days to submit a learning plan allows the parent and child time to adjust and prepare for success.

Lastly, the guidelines around proving that homeschooling is in the best interest of a child is very vague. What makes the world great, is that we are all individuals, with our own thoughts and opinions. There will be varying opinions about what is 'best interest', and the legislation proposal is not clear about how or who will be making the decision.

Homeschooling is a relatively new experience for our family, but it is one that has been met with great support by family, friends and strangers. My children are thriving being taught at home. We know many homeschooling families who have shared the benefits of transitioning their children from mainstream school to home education.

I urge you to take into consideration my concerns and the concerns of many others in and connected to the homeschooling community.

Regards,

Natasha Wallin