

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 964
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Dear Committee members,

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 particularly concerned about having to follow the National Curriculum. My son has ASD alongside a learning disability, and processing difficulties. He takes a lot longer to get new concepts and retain the information. There is no way he could cover all of the National Curriculum. He also suffers from anxiety so adding that workload would only be detrimental to his health.

As a mother I know him best and I'm able to work at his pace, which leads me into another proposed amendment I'm deeply concerned about. The prospect of someone else, who doesn't know my child, deciding what's best for him. I, as his parent, know him like no one else does and therefore have his best interest at heart. I have seen his struggles and continue to help him navigate his world and schooling. This I believe is taking away my parental right to look after my own child to my best ability.

I have laid witness to many children (with and without special needs) over the years that have highly benefited from a homeschooling lifestyle. Catering learning towards their individual strengths and interests. They have grown into confident, talented, creative and self driven young adults.

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. For education to be inclusive of all students, I believe it is important to understand the reasoning behind the education decisions of the families who struggle the most to fit into mainstream education.

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,

Concerned Paren