Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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| Submitted by: | |
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Submitter Comments:

| From: | |
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| To: | Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee |
| Subject: | Changes to QLD Home ed |
| Date: | Thursday, 21 March 2024 11:40:03 AM |

To the Committee Secretary of education, employment, training and skills committee Parliament house,

I am writing to oppose the proposed changes to home education by Mrs Di Farmer.

I am blessed to be the mother of seven children and in my 14th year of home education. I am concerned about the preposed changes to home education, I understand that it has been suggested that all students follow the Australian curriculum and standardised testing applied across the board.

If there is one thing I have learned from having seven children it is that no two children are the same. I don't believe it is in any child's best interest to be confined to a curriculum according only to their age and grade level.

Children are unique individuals with unique gifts and talents, one of the many benefits of home education is that a child can work at their individual level according to their abilities and needs.

A child may excel at any given subject and benefit from moving ahead whereas another may struggle with a particular concept/ concept and slow down and work on that a little longer until they have had sufficient time to grasp such things and master the challenge, home educating at our pace allows for this.

The Australian curriculum does not allow for this time, nor does it allow for a child who has specific learning needs to access different curriculum that suits their learning styles. It does not allow for diverse learning needs or disabilities such as dyslexia for example.

My second concern is that only being able to use the Australian curriculum means that it will be a very heavy load for the parent/ home educator to carry with it's inflexible and regimented design, especially for large families who cannot possibly achieve the task of teaching all children completely different topics across all subjects within any given day. It would almost require a separate day per child .We have always enjoyed using integrated units where possible with some of the children's subjects such as science, art and history which allows us to move through any given topic as a collective group, each child working at their own individual age and level of capability. This also allows for great conversation and collaboration. Obviously, some subjects need to be taught separately according to the child's individual age and capability however this flexibility would be lost under the proposed changes.

We also love that right now we have the flexibility to really embrace and nurture our children's gifts and talents and cater an education that facilitates their chosen career path.

We love the flexibility to engage in field trips, hands on learning and other educational experiences when and how it best suits or children and their needs.

My third and final point is that not every family agrees with some of the content within the Australian curriculum and it may not fit in with every families' set of values. We as the child's parents should have a choice about what we see as appropriate to teach our children

I ask you to consider these things and I thank you for taking the time to read this email. Kind regards

I ask that you not publish any personal details other than my first name publicly.