

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 homeschooling Queensland
Date: Thursday, 21 March 2024 2:32:45 PM
Importance: High

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

Attention Committee Secretary,

I object to the proposed changes in homeschooling Queensland.

Even though ACARA have created a national curriculum for schools does not mean all schools use it; there are independent schools operating on their own curriculum such as the curriculum for Steiner Education (curriculum backed by theoretical practice). There is a reason why parents seek alternative education other than mainstream government education and it is because they deem it in the best interests of their children and they most certainly have the right to do so. Unfortunately, the crowded ACARA curriculum does not serve to benefit the entire learner population despite the government's best intentions for it to do so. The Mparntwe Declaration (Goal 1) states that the Australian Government will work with the education community to "promote personalised learning and provide support that aims to fulfil the individual capabilities and needs of learners". What if the ACARA curriculum does not fulfil the individual capabilities and needs of *all* learners? ACARA (<https://www.acara.edu.au/curriculum>) states that the curriculum "reflects the priorities and expectations we [emphasis added] hold for our young people"; the 'we' here being questionable. I understand a very skilled board of stakeholders have created it and adapted it over time, with recent version 9 changes, however, this does not mean that it reflects priorities and expectations that *every family* hold for *their* children, nor suit the education needs and learning goals for every child. The most important curriculum areas are English and Mathematics, however, the other curriculum subject areas are up for speculation according to individual parent, child and family needs and beliefs. There are what might be considered the 'minority group' of parents/carers/families in Australia that believe that this ACARA curriculum contains learning objectives and goals that do not align with their culture, religion, beliefs, lifestyle, family context, or other social, cultural or political contexts. It is for this reason, they have sought alternative education for their children that they align with and are satisfied with. In turn, they are seeing their children learn, thrive and achieve right before their eyes (literally, in their lounge rooms and dining rooms) just the same as any child at any school can and is.

Which leads to the second point, that parents should not have to justify to anyone what they believe, as the parent of their child, is in the best interests of their child. Are government policies seeking to override a parents role in knowing what is best for their child? Should any parent have to 'justify' their decisions based on their child's best interest? The United Nations Conventions on the Rights of a Child (number 18) that "parents should always consider what is best for that child" and furthermore, that governments should "help them". Again, in number 3, that "all adults" are required to put the child first and do what is best for that child. In this instance, parents are offering their

say against this proposal as they do not believe the government, as adults, are putting their child first. This proposal does not assist parents in doing what they consider is best for their child/ren, more-so it will hinder, sabotage or even destroy what homeschooling parents are doing currently, and doing so well, and more importantly how children are learning, and learning so well.

As a pre-service teacher, about to start my own homeschooling small business, I can see the detrimental effect this proposal will have first-hand on parents as well as their children. I work closely with one homeschooling family already, aligning with everything I have stated above, whom I know these proposed changes will in no way benefit those children from learning, only hinder their learning progress and achievement to date. I have worked closely alongside these children, learning based on a non-ACARA curriculum, and observed significant milestones in their learning. A crowded ACARA curriculum will not serve their best interest and will certainly make my job harder as their homeschooling support to 'rush' them through achieving such intense curriculum content. Not only that, but devoted homeschooling parents will need to find the time in their school-devoted, child-centred schedules to report immediate learning plans. From a small business perspective, this proposal will only create interest and influx in graduate and proficient teachers drawing to the flourishing homeschooling industry with their knowledge and expertise in The ACARA Curriculum and learning plans, and in doing so, draw away from school systems, exacerbating existing teacher shortages.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

[Redacted signature]

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**Note: Author's name and details, as well as two contacts names and details are to be redacted from any public submission or viewing, however, author's submission text is permitted to be made public*

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