

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Tracy McGrouther



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To whom it may concern

I am a mother of 2 children both currently homeschooling in Queensland. Our homeschooling journey started in 2017 when we planned to travel the Queensland Coast via sailing yacht. We had only planned to be away for 6 months, at the time my kids were in year 1 and 3 and I had gained permission from the school to remove them both for 6 months but I was in charge of their education. After only a few months of traveling my husband and I noticed a massive difference in our children, how they regulated their emotions, interacted with others, and how they took on new information and experiences.

Both my kids tried school again when we settled back on land but both decided they were learning more at home.

I strongly disagree with the proposed changes

I struggle to understand who gets to decide a 'suitable educational environment' other than my family. The school, the teacher, the principal, the council, the government do not get to decide. I have worked with occupational therapists, speechies and psychologists and they are only reporting on what the family is telling them. These tests they get the child to complete can be easily influenced and will only line their pockets leaving the family with less. And considering the family takes on the education without any funds from the government this seems like a crazy option.

I teach both of my children who are at different ages and with different abilities. The term 'suitable educational environment' is too vague and has great potential to limit how we change and adapt to our learning which is essential for bringing up children in this current climate.

I use the ACARA website to help guide me and help bring out great values in what we are learning, but forcing ACARA into our homes is not what it was set out to be. My son is extremely advanced in science and engineering. He is 13 and has already started a Uni online course. How can I possibly write a report inline with ACARA about his growth?

I believe that if these changes are put in place it will increase the amount of unregistered home schooling children, it will increase stress on the families that are already trying to do the right thing by the children and inform the government. It will increase the paperwork for the HEU to

read over and increase the overall costs with homeschooling which is already done out of love and support.

Thank you for your time and I wish you to see the reason and not put these changes in place.

Kind Regards

Tracy McGrouther