

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Submission on proposed changes to Home Education in Queensland
Date: Thursday, 21 March 2024 4:21:44 PM

Dear Sir/Madam,

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 and I am worried about the impact that they will have on my family and the homeschooling community.

My son spent several years in school but became increasingly stressed and unhappy. Dyslexia, dysgraphia and dyscalculia made his school experience difficult. He fell years behind grade level in reading and writing, his mental health suffered and he refused to attend. My son, who was once happy and confident, became depressed and his self-esteem hit rock bottom.

We switched to home education two years ago and he has made huge improvements academically, emotionally and socially. He has progressed from being unable to sound out simple words to reading full novels and theatre scripts.

Researching and facilitating home education takes a lot of time and energy, but I have decided to follow this path because my son requires individual instruction. He doesn't respond to imposed learning and is motivated by learning about his own interests. If he is presented with lessons he has no interest in, he shuts down and refuses to participate.

He has found a new passion in musical theatre. This has given him a sense of community and improved his self-esteem. Around the topic of musical theatre, I create lessons in reading, writing, grammar, speech, historical research, singing, dancing and geography. As well, we follow structured programs for mathematics and literacy.

I strongly believe that our education system needs to be flexible, relevant and engaging. We should be nurturing a passion for exploration, encouraging students to seek out answers and develop their interests. We shouldn't put constraints on what children can learn, thereby stifling their thirst for knowledge and limiting their potential by forcing them into a very small box.

Kids, like adults, learn best when they are excited and interested in a topic. They learn best when the lesson is presented in a way they can understand, at an appropriate level. They learn best when they can take time to digest new information, ask questions, present their own ideas and explore.

Should we be forced to follow the Australian Curriculum, my child's education would be negatively impacted. Due to his dyslexia and other learning difficulties, he requires a lot of structure and his lessons need to be altered. He doesn't cope well when being forced to do activities he isn't interested in. This would impact his mental health and make our home life difficult.

As well, the proposed requirement to report across each learning area is excessive. This takes time away from educating our children. I do agree that reporting is important, however I strongly oppose the need to report across all KLA's.

My son is thriving in the home education environment. Since leaving school, he has become confident and his self-esteem has grown. I invite you to explore the many ways a "high quality education" can look. A student-centred approach needs to be at the forefront rather than top-down directives that do not hold the student's best interests at heart.

I strongly oppose the change to have home educators follow the National Curriculum. By doing so, the best thing about home education is lost: the ability to nurture a child's passions and interests and build learning activities around these, thereby making education relevant and exciting.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Name]

***Please redact name, address and email from my submission prior to publication.