

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 996
Submitted by: Samantha Purvis
Publication:
Attachments:
Submitter Comments:

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Proposed legal changes to homeschooling
Date: Thursday, 21 March 2024 4:27:31 PM

Hello,

I am writing to make a submission against the proposed legal changes to homeschooling affecting QLD families.

I understand the following amendments have been proposed.

I don't homeschool my children, however, I have concerns over the government taking away parents choice in how they educate their children. My concerns include:

1. It will be included in the law that homeschooling must be "in the best interest" of the child.

So what this means is if the law explicitly states that homeschooling must be in the best interest of the child, then this will need to be reflected in the rules and regulations around homeschooling.

The thing is, who decides on what is in the best interest of the child?

Isn't that our job and our right as a parent?!

What is the governments criteria for determining what's best?

What if they don't agree with the parents reasons?

What is they think school is best? Could they reject the parents application and then perhaps their children will be forced to go to school against the parents will?

This is the potential. If this part of the bill goes through, parental rights will be utterly violated. Mums and dads will be co-parenting with the government and it will be harder to homeschool.

2. Complete removal of provisional registration (meaning permission to homeschool even though the parents application and plan has not been approved yet).

So in QLD at the moment they have provisional registration, which pretty much means parents have decided to homeschool their child, they have sent in their application, but haven't yet had their plan approved, so they are provisionally registered. The full approval process, as we all know, can take months.

So what does this mean? If a child is of school age and they are experiencing bullying or some sort of trauma at school the parents will not legally be able to get their child out until their full registration is complete.

If parents do take their child out of school without permission then they will be marked truant every day they are absent. This is how it works in NSW currently, and many parents struggle to remove their kids from school.

Schools will fight to keep parents kids in school and they can threaten to report parents to child protection services due to truancy.

3. the national curriculum will need to be followed

4. reporting will be against the national curriculum

One of the reasons parents homeschool is so they can allow their child to pursue their interests, be flexible and help their child learn at their own pace. This is especially important for children who are neurodivergent and have special learning needs. Following a set curriculum will take away a lot of flexibility and freedom to do this.

Lets be honest...children in schools dont even reach every outcome!!

They are my concerns and I'm confident the concerns of other parents around the nation. It is up to the parents how they educate their children, and the government or education

departments have no business trying to co-parent with Australian parents.

Regards,

Samantha Purvis

