

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 home education within Queensland
Date: Friday, 22 March 2024 10:29:21 AM

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to share my firsthand experience as a homeschooling parent, and to emphasise the positive impact home education has had on both my children, academically, socially and for their mental health.

As a student studying education at University, volunteering daily at the children's private school, and as someone working in education, I had no intention of home educating my children initially. Unfortunately, due to severe bullying, I witnessed my eldest child suffer emotionally and academically. He slipped from completing work 3 years above his age level to failing his favourite subject, science. He expressed to an older friend that he wanted to commit suicide. He was in grade 3. I was warned to take this seriously. My younger son seemed to thrive at school but began to develop anxiety that the school struggled to accommodate, upsetting staff as well as my son. After a parent teacher review I decided to act, turning to home education. I am thankful that families can access a provisional registration period - many have not planned this journey and it allows them to attend to their children's most pressing needs, whilst researching what education approach would best suit their children. Please do not revoke this important provisional period. A lot of work goes into making an individual plan.

What a wonderful thing home education has been for my sons! Both of my children's mental health improved immensely as soon as we began. I tailored a positivity and emotional health program to their needs which we spend time on daily. My boys interests include art and science, they are completing high school work in these areas. We intend to incorporate a range of work experience in science and engineering in high school and can start university subjects during high school. If they must follow the Australian Curriculum they would be forced to go back over areas they have already learnt and have strong knowledge in and would not be learning new material. They are completing all other work at grade level and enjoying a varied curriculum. I ask that you do not force home educating families to use the Australian Curriculum. What use would it be to hold them back? How will forcing families to follow the Australian Curriculum assist struggling or academically gifted students?

Who defines what a suitable education environment is? Montessori inspired environments will differ greatly to those inspired by Swedish pedagogies vs those who follow Russian and English

pedagogies (such as a very dedicated local family, which includes two teachers and three students who excel). If Australian style school environments are the standard, why do we not excel in all areas of education?

Currently all educational outcomes measured on home educated students show home educated students outperform students educated at traditional schools. Will this legislation impede this success? What research was undertaken first?

Why remove educational certificates if students are being overseen through the process (which they currently are)? Surely this can only lower student employment outcomes?

In conclusion, I urge the committee to recognize and celebrate the diverse benefits of homeschooling, which go beyond mere academic achievement. As a homeschooling parent, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to nurture my children's love of learning and to prepare them for the complexities of the real world through personalized, holistic education.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Homeschooling Parent

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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