

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Proposed Amendments to Home Education Legislation
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Sandra Williams

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19/03/2024

Hon Lance McCallum

Shop 39
St Ives Shopping Centre
2 Smiths Road
GOODNA QLD 4300

Dear Lance McCallum,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent education legislation changes that have been proposed in our state. As a constituent and a member of the community, I believe it is crucial to voice my apprehensions about the potential impact of these changes on our education system.

I am a mother of 3 young children whom I believe deserve the right to fair choice. I am a sister to a brother who always struggled through the school system and has grown into a man living with mental health challenges. I am a previous student who progressed through the school system and was always deemed "a pleasure to teach" even though inside I felt trapped without a voice. I believe this gives me a few important perspectives on the proposed changes.

The proposed legislation raises several pressing concerns that I believe need to be addressed. Firstly, the negative effect this will have on the mental health of parents and children who are homeschooling. Waitlists for mental health support is already overwhelmingly long. They will be forced in to a situation which will cause a breakdown to their relationship and this may in turn give rise to more children whom are not coping in school to return. I believe this would cause these students to display disruptive, or possibly aggressive behaviour. I am concerned for these children's wellbeing and that of the other students in the classroom. I feel this adds an extra burden to teachers who are already stretched. In the future, I implore you to envision the qualities we want to nurture for the next generation. I believe the choice to homeschool with flexibility encourages autonomy, passion and innovation. It will see kids with critical thinking and new ideas which could change the world. Not allowing this space for children unable to flourish in the traditional schooling system is asking for adults to grow up with depression, anxiety and lack of self worth. My brother spent most of his schooling years being bullied, struggling with the Australian academic curriculum and having teachers tell him he wasn't good enough. Now, he is a man with depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation. I wonder what his life might have looked like had he had to opportunity to educate in a way which fit his unique self. Not every child is created the same, nor should they be schooled the same. One of the greatest benefits to homeschooling is to be able to create an individual education tailored to the child's specific needs, passions, learning styles and current level in each area. The curriculum is designed for a large school system, full classrooms and huge numbers of children to cater for across the state. It has it's place within this setting. It would however, be devastating to a child receiving a family education to be limited to such a narrow learning experience.

Moreover, I am worried about the lack of transparency and public consultation surrounding these changes. As a stakeholder in our education system, I believe it is imperative for the voices of educators, parents, students, and community members to be heard and considered in any decision-making process that impacts our schools.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed education legislation and to prioritize the best interests of our students, teachers, and schools. I implore you to advocate for a more inclusive and collaborative approach to policymaking that values input from all stakeholders and ensures the integrity and quality of our education system.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for considering my concerns. I look forward to your response and to further dialogue on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Sandra Williams