

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by: Carly Hill
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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Opposition to the Proposed Changes to Home Education
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The Committee

I oppose the proposed changes to Home Education in Queensland.

Homeschooling is a VALID educational choice for any and all children. It is not an inferior option and should be a parents decision as to whether or not homeschooling is in their child's best interests. Protecting the right for children to have access to a high quality education should equal protecting the right for families to choose which educational path is right for them.

As a home educating family, we have made sacrifices to homeschool. We sacrifice time and income and it is not a decision that has been made lightly (and nor would it be for any home educating family). Homeschool parents are invested and dedicated to the overall wellbeing of their children. The decision to home educate is rarely purely for academic reasons. The decision to home educate is to protect the best interests of the child as a whole person.

We as a family have been homeschooling for 7+ years and have found our experience nothing but positive. Our children have a natural curiosity for learning that has not been dampened by following a strict curriculum. They learn about a variety of topics through following their interests and having a dedicated parent that is able to facilitate learning opportunities. They have ample time to engage socially with people of all ages and interact with people within their community on a daily basis.

I also oppose enforcing the Australian Curriculum on Home Educating families. A high quality education is not a standardised curriculum. A high quality education is adapted to suit the abilities and interests of the child so that learning is meaningful, relevant and applicable. Schools are unable to provide an individually tailored education for the vast number of students, but homeschoolers are able to provide that option. Children have the right to access a high quality education, but once that education is in the form of a compulsory curriculum, you have taken away their right to choose the method that is in their best interests.

Schools are already underfunded and understaffed, and many families leave the school system because they are unhappy with their experience at school. Imposing greater expectations on Home Educating families (families that already do so with very little support from the government and local communities) will either put further pressure on the school system, or further pressure on parents who are already making incredible sacrifices for their families. If you truly want to protect children and allow them access to a high quality education, you need to empower parents with the ability to choose what is right for their family, and give them adequate support to continue doing so.

Thank you for your time.

Carly Hill
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