

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1044
Submitted by: Bree Aller
Publication:
Attachments: No attachment
Submitter Comments:

B Aller
Qld
email: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Changes to Homeschooling Legislation

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my profound concerns regarding the proposed changes to the education curriculum and requirements for homeschooling parents and children in Queensland. As a parent deeply invested in the education and well-being of my child, I find it imperative to voice my dissent against these proposed measures.

First and foremost, it is crucial to recognize and respect the diverse needs of students when it comes to education. While the traditional school system may be effective for some children, it is essential to acknowledge that it does not cater to the needs of every child equally.

For my child, the traditional school system failed to meet her needs. After struggling through Year 1, she was promoted into Grade 2. The very first day of Grade 2 she came home and said to me "Mum I'm slow". I asked her what she meant by that and had someone told her that, she said " No, I could just tell because I didn't understand anything and I didnt get my work finished". As a parent I was heart broken for her. After a parent-teacher meeting early in the year requesting assistance, the school offered peer-reading groups and one 15 minute session with a teacher aide per week.

I made request after request to the Principal and various heads of learning but they did nothing to help my child. At the start of Term 3 the teacher advised me she had not shown any improvement and was "failing Year 2". My daughter was 7 years old and was labelled a failure by someone who could not help. The traditional school system could not offer the support my child required, and no one was prepared to do anything about it.

What choice did I have but take control of our educational journey through homeschooling? Since August 2022, we have embarked on our homeschooling journey. Since then, I have noticed that my child has gained her self confidence and her self worth back and her attitude towards school work has improved greatly. My child does have a learning disability that we are in the process of getting assessments on BUT, with the personalized learning approach I have adopted my child is now reading, she enjoys doing most math subjects, and her writing skills are improving. She is not fast or always accurate but she is improving which was not the case when in the traditional school.

It is disheartening to witness politicians wanting to change homeschooling when every child deserves the opportunity to flourish in an educational environment that best suits their individual needs and learning styles.

Instead of enforcing rigid mandates, we should be empowering families to make informed choices about their children's education, whether through traditional schooling, homeschooling, or alternative educational pathways.

Furthermore, as we find ourselves in the year 2024, one would expect society to have recognized that classroom learning is standardized to suit the masses, overlooking the needs of individual students. Children with specific needs are unfairly targeted and coerced to conform in ways that are detrimental to their well-being. If the traditional classroom and curriculum fail to accommodate these needs adequately, why should these children be forced to endure it?

Committee members, it is with a sense of deep concern that I address your audacity to assume that you know what is best for every child in Queensland without taking the time to talk to parents and alternative educators for their advice/feedback. Even though you did not ask, I shall share it regardless.

As a parent, I firmly believe that if the government's prescribed education system cannot adequately cater to my child's educational needs, I should have the autonomy to seek alternative means of education that better serve my child's interests and abilities.

I urge you and your committees to reconsider these proposed changes that make our lives as parents harder, when we're just trying our best to support our children. Instead, as parents, we would prefer you focus on supporting initiatives that promote educational choice and opportunities for all children to thrive, irrespective of the educational setting they choose.

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Sincerely,

B Aller