

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1047
Submitted by: Gina Shearing
Publication:
Attachments: No attachment
Submitter Comments:

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Cc: educationandyouthjustice@ministerial.qld.gov.au; [Moggill Electorate Office](#); [Annastacia Palaszczuk Ministerial](#)
Subject: The Queensland Education Legislation Amendments
Date: Friday, 22 March 2024 10:35:53 PM

Dear Committee,

I would like to express my objection to the proposals in the Education Bill 2024.

I believe that forcing home educated children to comply with the national curriculum will be very limiting for children, a waste of resources and an overreach into parental rights. My husband and I are both highly educated professionals who have recently began our homeschool journey with our not-yet-school-age children. We were both advanced students who felt limited in a classroom setting. My husband was labeled a disruptive student due to the boredom he faced in an environment where he wasn't challenged or actually learning. Following in his footsteps, our 4 year old has, of her own volition, started reading and writing fluently. She is already advanced for her age in maths, mastering multiplication and division and ahead in a number of other areas. With the insight of many friends and family who work in education we can see that attending a mainstream school or facing a standardised age-based curriculum wouldn't serve her. This is one of the drivers that prompted us to consider homeschooling.

An individualised high quality education plan delivered in an exciting manner, with far better teacher to student ratios is, in our opinion, superior. Being forced to waste time checking boxes to comply with a national curriculum is not going to benefit us, and I'm sure the additional work required from the HEU to ensure compliance will only create more stress on their limited resources.

The current legislation allows for home educated students to undertake university units as part of their education and for many this is a pathway into completing a university degree. This is often completed in an arguably more efficient manner compared to those in mainstream school. The proposed changes would mean that secondary students would need to follow the senior syllabus, potentially with TAFE or vocational training but there doesn't seem to be an option to also complete university subjects. This would clearly limit the advanced students in the home education community.

I also have concerns with the removal of the option to have provisional registration with HEU. I've heard many cases where a child has experienced trauma at school and it has been necessary to immediately stop attending the school to protect the child's physical and mental wellbeing. With the proposed changes it seems that parents would be forced to continue to send their child to school, putting them at risk, while they urgently rush to learn the requirements of HEU, formulate a yearly plan etc. in a situation that they were most likely not preparing for. The grace period that provisional registration provides seems to be absolutely crucial in protecting the child from further harm in these cases.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Kind regards,
Gina Shearing MAudSt, BHLthSc

[REDACTED]

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.