

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1048
Submitted by: Claire Harvey
Publication:
Attachments: No attachment
Submitter Comments:

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Homeschooling has saved my children, do not enforce this Legislation
Date: Saturday, 23 March 2024 6:35:13 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As a homeschooling parent whose children are thriving since leaving the mainstream system, I wanted to let you know that I, along with my fellow homeschoolers DO NOT support the proposed legislation changes to make homeschoolers follow the restrictive ACARA curriculum.

The Pine Rivers area has an incredibly active homeschooling community with a sizeable number of us neurodivergent and supporting additional physical and neurological conditions. Too many of us have children who fall within the gifted category and yet they were screaming at us (literally) to not force them into a school environment so threatening and detrimental to their mental health.

Too many of us will forever carry the trauma of racing through our homes, repeatedly, to check our child is still alive. The child we were told was 'fine' at school.

Unschooling is for most of us, the spark which reignites our children's love of learning. This is only possible after almost 12 months of Deschooling, where we put connection first and support our children to heal from their school experience. Many children are unable to leave their home for the first 6-10 months, their world becomes very small in order to process their trauma. We as families do everything we can to support them while being told by those with absolutely no idea, that we are failing them.

The Home Education Unit QLD already requires parents and caregivers to provide a learning plan each year demonstrating high quality learning opportunities and support will be provided for our children. It allows us to individualise learning in a way schools will never be able to do while class sizes remain above a 1:7 ratio. We become experts at providing interest led exploration, we research all the local library events, galleries, workshop and we travel all over the region to engage with our community.

Would it surprise you to know that many 13 year olds who home school are already enrolled part time in Open University courses? That 15 year olds are starting their diplomas at TAFE and are establishing their chosen career before their school aged peers have finished their own mainstream studies. Then there are the entrepreneurs who sell their wares at our homeschool markets, who have built up online businesses and can put many adults to shame with their business acumen.

Finally, there are kids like my eldest, who now actually envision themselves as an adult.

Let that sink in.

My child, who saw no future, who thought unaliving was their only option, is now excited about the possibilities of his future thanks to our individualised learning at home. They may not have a career path yet, but the fact that they now look to a future is the biggest win of all.

The current path of homeschoolers is working. Our kids are thriving. Please do not support legislation which forces us back into a mainstream mindset.

Kind regards,
Claire Harvey

[REDACTED]
Previous Community Kindergarten Committee President (nominated for Local Australian of the Year for community involvement)
Previous School P& C Vice President, Tuckshop volunteer, Weekly classroom volunteer offering 1:1 learning support to children in out of home care or from disadvantaged homes.
Previous Pyjama Angel volunteer
Previous Swim Teacher specialising in 1:1 additional needs support in water- liaising with paediatric occupational therapists and paediatric speech pathologists to offer individualised support for children with

disabilities