

## Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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To whom it may concern:

My name is [REDACTED]. I am 16 years old, and have homeschooled for about 14.5 years of my life. I went to school for the last term of prep, and grade 1. During my time being at school, I experienced teachers who used archaic methods to force me to use my right hand as opposed to my left hand. I wasn't liked by my teachers because I couldn't sit still, and I found it to be an all round bad experience. Homeschooling was the answer to all my problems. This is because I was able to have an experience made by one person, my mother, for one person, me. Because my mother knows me best, she was and is able to create the best possible experience for me to learn the most from. An imposed curriculum would not have made this possible.

Homeschooling allows for the tailoring of learning styles for each student on a far smaller ratio. My class in school was about 25-30 students, and official guidelines say 28 students per classroom of grade 7-10<sup>1</sup>. Assuming there is both a teacher and teacher aid in every classroom (which there isn't) means the ratio of teachers to students is only 1:12.5, rounded to 1:13. This is the best case scenario. You cannot get as good feedback, or learning, when something has to be designed for 30 people at once, in a limited timeframe. Homeschooling with your own choice of curriculum allows truly tailored learning, thus, a better learning experience for students who are likely to learn more, especially on subjects they enjoy, in interest based learning.

The fact I didn't have to follow a set curriculum meant I could take as long or short as I needed to learn certain subjects. It took my Mum, at most, an hour, to teach me what < and > meant. It took me *weeks* to learn how to do long division. I just didn't get it. If I was in a classroom of 25 students, the teacher would have been forced to move on, leaving me behind, and forcing my parents to pick up their slack anyway, just so I could be deemed competent in long division for a test, then forgotten anyway (No seriously do you remember how to do long division? That's what I thought). To say I was able to bounce around different aspects of a subject in terms of time was amazing. What might have taken at least 1 class lesson to teach, my mother took only a couple dozen minutes to teach. Then we moved on. Because of this method, I have been able to do far more things with my life that amount to far more worth than learning that the mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell, especially when science and biology don't normally interest me. The only exception to that being when I am motivated to learn about it, made me interested. This has happened the most at homeschooling events.

The extra time granted by speeding through the majority of my schoolwork allowed me to do far more than sit in a few rooms for 6 hours in a day, then go home and do more schoolwork. I have been able to attend different homeschooling functions across the greater Brisbane area. From programs such as [Free2Learn](#) for a while, to volunteering at a homeless people lunch program by my church, which I ended up volunteering at for roughly 2 and a bit years.

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<sup>1</sup> "World-Class Education." *Education Queensland International*, Queensland Government, [eqi.com.au/why-queensland/world-class-education](http://eqi.com.au/why-queensland/world-class-education). Accessed 19 Mar. 2024.

I developed great relationships with many of the people there, and have made a lasting impact there. This is because I had a flexible education. This is not afforded by following curriculums. Curriculums force everyone into a box, a square person through a circle hole. This is uncomfortable for the person, and results in a less than optimal outcome.

One argument against homeschooling is that the parents are often unqualified to teach on the subjects required for a full education, and I would say this is a non argument. Every teacher utilizes other people and resources to teach their subject, and parents are no different. There is a plethora of resources for parents or other home educators to use for each and every subject taught at school, and then many many more besides. A lot of these are free, and a lot of them aren't. These programs often go far deeper in content than you would get otherwise, and for a fraction of the price of school.

Not allowing parents to educate their children the way they want is also an infringement on their rights as a parent. My mother knows more about me than you, the government, does. This is a good thing. It should stay this way. Because she knows more about me, she should be allowed to make decisions about my education, not relying on the government to make decisions for her. Just as my mother is allowed to make certain medical decisions, she should also be allowed to make decisions regarding my education. And so should the vast, vast majority of parents. Very few parents are abusive towards their kids, and we shouldn't force thousands of people to follow one way of learning because of a very very small minority of people.

Because I am homeschooled, I was able to learn a lot about my interests, such as World War 1 and 2. Because I am homeschooled, I was able to volunteer feeding homeless people for 2 years, because I wasn't restricted by a classroom. Because I was homeschooled, I know things that are legitimately interesting to me, and will be helpful in my future. Because I was homeschooled, I have a deeper relationship with many friends because I was able to see them more often outside the context of school. Because of homeschooling I am able to hold genuine and engaging conversations with adults better than most school kids can. Because of homeschooling I engage more often with kids outside of my immediate grade/age. I have more genuine friends, many of whom are adults. I have a deeper knowledge of things that interest me, whilst still retaining the necessary base knowledge of the required subjects. I am able to learn in a way that I enjoy, and works for me.

Thank you for reading this. It really does mean a lot to me and my family.  
Homeschooling isn't for everyone, by any means,  
but those who it works for, we need it. There is no better way for us.  
Thank you again for reading and considering,  
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you,

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