

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

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**Submitted by:** Dr Vern Heazlewood  
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**To:** [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Education (General Provisions) and other legislation Amendment Bill 2024  
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Dear Secretary,

I am writing to express my concern about several issues with the above Bill, recognizing that there are some parts which may be attempting to improve the education system but these would clearly be facilitated by (1) adherence to Privacy Law legislation and (2) implementing efficient and streamlined administrative processes in schools.

However, my concern is what appears to be an 'over reach' by the Queensland Government, to control Homeschooling structurally and ideologically. The reasons behind this proposed legislation are not due to the quality or outcomes of home schooled children. It is common knowledge and very embarrassing that the current literacy and numeracy achievements in State educated students are the lowest for a long time, if not all time. The Government Education sector really needs to address its own problems before interfering with the home schooling sector. In due course, as the meteoric rise in home educated students occurs, the NAPLAN tests should yield meaningful statistics on the quality of this type of education. Furthermore, there is a range of students who do not fit into the tight grid of our current system for reasons such as anxiety, ASD, bullying and other psychological problems. These students often excel in a supported home environment, employing a unique, tailored and personalized curriculum.

It is regrettable that this Bill may further endanger students who are already confused about identity issues. So much is being thrust upon them without letting kids be kids. It is because of the current over-emphasis on diversity, inclusion and equality that students are becoming less resilient, more anxious and under-achieving. Sadly, and although the data is murky, this may also be contributing to the suicide rate.

I say these things as a retired Consultant Physician and Endocrinologist, a Senior Lecturer (Clinical) for the University of Queensland for over 30 years and Adjunct Professor (Emeritus) for the Queensland University of Technology. Although I was educated through the Queensland State Education system, I have had experience in setting up several Private Schools. Six of my 14 grandchildren are currently being home-schooled and I have objectively observed the improvement that they have enjoyed because of this change.

Thank you for reading my comments and I trust that they will profitably contribute to the matters of the Bill.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Vern Heazlewood MBBS Hons, MSc, EdD, FRACP, FRCP, FACP (retired)

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