

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

**Submission No:** 1092  
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Committee Secretary

Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee

Parliament House

George Street

Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Committee Secretary,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent proposed education legislation changes in our state. As a constituent, a concerned mother, and an active member of the community, I feel compelled to voice my apprehensions about the potential impact of these changes on our children.

The proposed legislation raises several pressing concerns that require urgent attention. Firstly, the current mainstream schooling curriculum follows a factory model of education, where all children, regardless of their capabilities, challenges, and interests, are expected to conform to a standardised mould. Children are grouped together with peers, some significantly older, yet are expected to meet specific milestones simultaneously. This expectation mirrors asking a newborn baby to walk and talk at the same level as a 12-month-old—a comparison that seems absurd. Yet, this is the reality our schooling system imposes on our children. I speak from personal experience when I say that the sense of failure resulting from unmet milestones can have a lasting impact.

Moreover, the Australian curriculum fails to honour the diverse cultures and beliefs of families. My daughter attended Prep and half of Year One before transitioning to the Home Education Unit QLD. Since embracing home education, we have tailored her learning to her individual needs and witnessed remarkable improvements in all areas. Notably, her anxiety and school refusal have

completely dissipated, thanks to a relaxed and developmentally appropriate learning environment. It's worth noting that she now demonstrates academic advancement compared to her peers in mainstream schooling, who continue to adhere to a one-size-fits-all curriculum.

I am concerned that the legislation has been introduced without proper consultation with current homeschooling families, and I implore you to consider my feedback. In light of these concerns, I urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed education legislation and prioritise the best interests of our students. For education to truly be inclusive of all students, it is essential to understand the educational decisions of families who struggle to fit into the mainstream system.

The proposed legislation threatens to disrupt a homeschooling system that was functioning well. If there are areas of challenge, I urge redirecting this energy into providing better support for homeschooling parents.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. I hope that, moving forward, the legislation can be tailored to meet the needs of all students across Queensland. I eagerly await your response on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Tahlia Heit