

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

**Submission No:** 1095  
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**Publication:**  
**Attachments:** No attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Amendments to Home Education Legislation  
**Date:** Sunday, 24 March 2024 11:01:06 AM

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Luke Williams

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24/03/2024

Hon Lance McCallum

Shop 39  
St Ives Shopping Centre  
2 Smiths Road  
GOODNA QLD 4300

Dear Hon Mr McCallum,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent education legislation changes that have been proposed in our state. As a constituent and a member of the community, I believe it is crucial to voice my apprehensions about the potential impact of these changes on our education system.

I am a father of 3 young children whom I believe deserve the right to fair choice. I am also a brother-in-law to a man who always struggled with the public school system and now lives with mental health challenges. I am also a previous student who struggled with the school system and left in grade 10 but to later return and finish my schooling. I always felt the need to perform and to 'tick a box' and that results were deemed more important than retention of learning. It is only now, many years later that I wish I had access to a different way of learning. One that could adapt to a child's interests and energy. I believe this gives me a few important perspectives on the proposed changes.

The proposed legislation raises several pressing concerns that I believe need to be addressed. Firstly, the possible negative effect on mental health of parents and children who are homeschooling. Waitlists for mental health support are already overwhelmingly long. Home-school families will be forced into a situation which may cause a breakdown to their relationship and in turn give rise to more children who are not coping in school to return. I'm concerned this would cause these students to display disruptive, or possibly aggressive behaviour. I am duly concerned for these children's wellbeing and that of the other students in the classroom. I feel this adds an extra burden to teachers who are already stretched. In the future, I implore you to envision the qualities we want to nurture for the next generation. I believe the choice to homeschool with flexibility encourages autonomy, passion and innovation. Not allowing this space for children unable to flourish in the traditional schooling system is asking for adults to grow up with depression, anxiety and lack of self worth. My brother-in-law spent most of his schooling years being bullied, struggling with the Australian academic curriculum and having teachers tell him he wasn't good enough. Now, he is a man with depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation. I wonder what his life might have looked like had he had the opportunity to educate in a way which fit his unique self.

Not every child is created the same, nor should they be schooled the same. One of the greatest benefits to homeschooling is to be able to create an individual education tailored to the child's specific needs, passions, learning styles and current level in each area. The curriculum is designed for a large school system, full classrooms and huge numbers of children to cater for across the state. It has its place within this setting. It

would however, be devastating to a child receiving a family education to be limited to such a narrow learning experience.

Moreover, I am concerned about the lack of transparency and public consultation surrounding these changes. As a stakeholder in our education system, I believe it is imperative for the voices of educators, parents, students, and community members to be heard and considered in any decision-making process that impacts our schools.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed education legislation and to prioritize the best interests of our students, teachers, and schools. I implore you to advocate for a more inclusive and collaborative approach to policymaking that values input from all stakeholders and ensures the integrity and quality of our education system.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for considering my concerns. I look forward to your response and to further dialogue on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Luke Williams