

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

**Submission No:** 1103  
**Submitted by:** Lorna Griffiths  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public

### Attachments:

### Submitter Comments:

As a citizen of Queensland I am not in favour of the changes proposed to the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 which affect homeschooling in Queensland. I became greatly aware of the Queensland homeschooling community only within the last couple of years after my daughter expressed an interest in commencing homeschooling her children, my grandchildren. I work in a community op-shop 2 days a week in a major regional centre of Queensland. When the homeschooling concept was raised I began to notice the amount of families that would come through the store with children that would usually be expected to be at school. I familiarised myself with the homeschooling clients and sought their help to understand their motivations, approaches and perceived benefits to the lifestyle choice, forming an ongoing camaraderie with many regulars. Discourse with these associates and impacted family have led me to voice my opposition to the changes proposed in this Bill which affect homeschooling. My community interactions with a multitude of homeschooling children over a variety of ages and their families have resulted in communications of angst and stress from both the children and their parents. The parents are concerned with the proposed expansion of the regulatory framework requiring them to start using the standardised curriculum, which many are opposed to for a variety of reasons, and great distrust that the changes which are posed to be in the best interest of homeschooling children are not a step towards the outlawing of the right to homeschool. The children themselves communicate concerns that their current courses of study which they describe as self-directed, interest based and relevant to their intended vocation may have to cease in favour of book-based, "boring" schoolwork that frequently isn't relevant to their aspirations. These children are intelligent, enterprising young people who are a delight to interact with and it is clear that many of these families make substantial sacrifices to offer the educational experiences they do, with many children undertaking courses or training that the families are covering the costs of with minimal if any assistance. I am writing to advise that I do not support the proposed legislative changes regarding: mandatory implementation of the Australian Curriculum into homeschooling in Queensland the introduction of a guiding principal that homeschooling should be provided in a way that in in the best interests of the child, taking into account the child's safety, wellbeing and access to a high-quality education. It is clear that insufficient consultation has occurred with the community directly impacted upon by this Bill and the unusually compressed timeframes for review and enquiry processes are not reflective of transparent or altruistic government processes. I strongly oppose the intent to remove all gender language from the whole schooling system. That is utter non-sense.