

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

**Submission No:** 1119  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Attachments:** See attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

24/03/24

Dear Committee,

I strongly object to the proposals in the Education Bill 2024. Here are some of the points that I object to:

1. Removal of pre registration. Pre Registration allows families to remove their children from school immediately in the event of traumatic experiences e.g. bullying. Having to keep children in school is not always the best for that child. I am speaking as a primary teacher with eighteen years experience in the classroom. Parents who choose to do what is in the best interest of their child would then be subject to emails/phone calls from school, social agencies and potentially, the police which only adds to a difficult situation causing further stress and upset. This would not be in the best interests of children or their families.
2. Defining high quality education as the National School Curriculum. Currently, approximately eighty percent of families in Queensland choose not to use this (they do have the option to). Yet homeschooling families successfully homeschool in a way that suits their children. The data on tertiary education for example shows that homeschoolers continue to find pathways through to further education. One of the huge benefit of homeschooling is having the flexibility to choose the educational approach that suits your child. Homeschooling is not school at home therefore a one-size-fits-all curriculum should remain an option but not be made a requirement as this will negatively impact the wellbeing of many homeschoolers in the eighty percent who currently choose not to opt for a national curriculum.
3. Increased reporting registration. Families already have to report to show progress annually which is more than enough (too much in my opinion as homeschool mum). Increasing this simply adds to the reporting workload and would not be beneficial to homeschooling families. In schools, teachers are placed with huge requirements to report however, every area is not reported on every year. Placing higher reporting requirements on families simply adds to paper work, taking away from time which can be spent planning homeschooling learning and therefore will not be in the best interest of the child. It will also lead to a substantial increase for the body who will oversee this both in the annual reviews and increased amount of paperwork. Where is the support for parents in this process?
4. Removing the use of gendered language. Placing this requirement is unnecessary and is also contrary to factual human biology. I am strongly against passing a law to make requirements on the use of 'gender free'

language and attempting to control language by force. There has been a huge lack of public consultation on this and I believe that the majority of parents (school and homeschool) would not be in support of this. Not only is it wrong to control language in this manner, it also has huge implications for science education and sex education if the thinking is that there are more than two sexes, which there are not.

My concerns stem from my experience of almost twenty years in education and three years as a homeschooling family. I homeschool my two primary age children and intend to homeschool my youngest too. I choose this option because of the flexibility and freedom in homeschooling. I have seen first-hand, the positive experience that homeschooling can have on children. I have experienced school refusal with one of my children and although I was able to take my children out of school without notice due to currently being in lockdown, it would have been traumatic to have to wait 12 weeks to remove her from school due to having no pre registration in New South Wales.

In terms of curriculum requirements, I feel the pressure around the curriculum requirements in New South Wales (where I live) and it does not benefit my children to have to follow a national curriculum rather than to focus on what they need and are interested in. The system in Queensland where you have the freedom to choose the curriculum approach to suit your individual child is one which I would prefer.

Homeschooling parents want what is best for their children. Adding the previously mentioned requirements will not contribute positively to the wellbeing of homeschool children nor their families and will infringe on parental rights, therefore I oppose them. I support the right of families to be free to homeschool.

I look forward to hearing your response on this matter.

Best Regards,

\*name, address, contact details included separately.