


Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by: 
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Dear
Committee Secretary
Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the recent education legislation changes that have been proposed in our state. As a family member of someone doing home-schooling and a parent considering home-schooling, it is crucial to voice my objections to the potential impact of these changes on our education system. I do not agree or approve of the changes proposed.

I am a single mother of three (3) children and an aunty to two (2) children. My niece and nephew are home-schooled by their mother full time.

In the past 2 years, I have watched my nephew go from extreme emotional and behavioural outburst, lack of interest in learning and socialising. Unable to properly read, understand and communicate, to this amazing kid we see today. Since they have started home-schooling in 2022, I have noticed my nephew's changes in behaviour and communication with conversations we have shared and times when I have taken care of him. He is learning and understanding things so quickly, and every time we interact, he has something new and amazing to share. This has been an incredible journey to experience.

I have 3 school age children who currently attending Queensland state education. My eldest has requested multiple times to be home school. When I have asked her why, she explains that she is getting bored as she is a bit more advance than other students her age. She is also anxious about taking anything to school as people/students take her belongings without consequences. She has become clingy, and it is now becoming a struggle to get her to go to school. She loves learning and is a big book worm. My middle child has separation anxiety due to trauma. Is currently being bullied, even when teachers are present or informed. She takes a snuggly (soft plus toy) everyone she goes to help with feeling scared and regulating her emotions. She has been formally diagnosed with ADHD. My youngest has started having nightmare and bed wetting problems. He is struggling with basic English skills. In the past 4-5 years, I have been teaching my children about safety, boundaries, self-help, right and wrong and so many more things. It has become hard to keep this information and knowledge going when there are completely different standards at school depending on the child.

● I oppose the legislative change in regard to "best interest of the child" who decides this and how is this not against a parent right to educate? I fear that this against humanitarian rights and rights of a parent. Being someone that is keen to home educate my children, I am fearful that someone else gets to decide this based on limited to no experience with my child. I know my children best as I parent them to my best ability and always have my child's best interest especially in regard to their education.

● I oppose following ACRA - currently at school my child is following ACRA. She is bored beyond belief where she sits in class reading any type of book to entertain herself because her teacher is unable to help her with more schoolwork due to limitations. She would happily be able to complete her current grade at a rapid rate. She is not interested in current subjects that are presented whereas if I was able to home school her, I could target her schooling to interests that captivate her and advance her programs to her achievable levels. I would be able to go at a pace that is best fit for my children and how they learn best. I do not support ACRA because some of the subjects being taught, I do not agree or believe in some of the content that has been presented. They do not support our values as a family. How is the change going to support parents in already teaching their home school child and how do you plan on supporting parents who wish to educate their child at home with limited knowledge of ACRA?

● Provisional registration - the current legislation being 60 days would give me time to research, find resources and create a home educational plan for my children. Considering my children are unhappy at school currently and knowing that I need to get in a space to be able to create a tailored educational plan for them. I oppose the change to having no registration grace period where I'd feel comfortable to be able to do so. I feel this will limit my ability to put her into home school which would be in the best interest of her. How do you propose this is in the best interest of any home-schooling parent or parent that chooses to move from state education to home schooling?

In light of these concerns, I urge you to carefully consider the proposed education legislation and to prioritize the best interest of our rapidly growing and proactive home educating community. I implore you to advocate for a more inclusive and collaborate 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 on this important issue.

Kind regards

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