

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

**Submission No:** 1143

**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]

**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name

### Attachments:

### Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent education legislation changes that have been proposed in our state. As a new constituent and a member of the community, I believe it is crucial to voice my deep concern about the potential impact of these changes on our education system. I am currently homeschooling my two children and these changes would impact our family immensely. We have been homeschooling using many different curriculum for years, enabling us to follow the interests of our children to best suit their learning needs. This way, they love learning and are intrinsically motivated. I strongly disagree with the proposed changes. The proposed legislation raises several pressing concerns that I believe need to be addressed:

1. The need to follow a certain curriculum: The Australian Curriculum has many shortcomings. This is a constant topic of discussion in the media and other forums. For this to be set as the 'gold standard' curriculum and forced upon homeschoolers in Queensland is ridiculous. We need to support our children in the way they learn best, rather than conform to a standardised approach that may hinder their progress and learning. What maybe appropriate for the majority will not be right for all, and for those that are not appropriately supported by the current curriculum, this can create additional challenges to their long term well-being and leaning. I note in the recent committee briefing the chairperson advised 20% of homeschoolers are using the Australian Curriculum and this shows that it is liked. This was very upsetting for us and those in the homeschooling community for whom the Australian Curriculum is not appropriate. If engagement on this bill included consulting this demographic properly, included a willingness to listen to feedback and understand other positions, I feel confident that this comment would not have been made.
2. Proving that homeschooling is in the best interest of my child: Homeschooling our children is not something we have entered into lightly and have done so with significant research, cost and consideration for the welfare of our children. While we have the resources to be able to engage medical and other experts to support our homeschooling position, we are concerned that not everyone will have access to those same opportunities and thus create a tiered level of homeschooling for those that can afford it, rather than for those where it is in the best interest of the child. I understand the desire for oversight to ensure appropriate care of the child, however this can be done in many ways. Engagement with the homeschooling community to find options that work for all parties involved would be a good start. My wife and I do not wish to co-parent with the Queensland Government. Ever! I'm confused as to how this has has even become an option for consideration, given the broader questions and concerns this raises, let alone those relating to human rights. As a stakeholder in our education system, I believe it is imperative the voices of educators, parents, students, and community members are heard and considered in any decision making process that impacts the schooling of our children. 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 policy making 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 further discussion on this important issue. Sincerely, [REDACTED]