

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1144
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name

Attachments:

Submitter Comments:

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 live in Central Queensland and homeschool my four children. I am a registered veterinarian with numerous post-graduate qualifications. As well as practicing veterinary medicine, I also work within the education sector as a manager and assessment coordinator for Registered Training Organisations offering accredited qualifications and as a contract marker for a university STEPS program. I hold my Certificate IV in Training and Assessment and have extensive knowledge and skills across both the VET and university sectors. I am registered with the Home Education Unit and have reported to them for the past nine years where I have been able to demonstrate the provision of a high quality education for my children. The proposed legislation raises several pressing concerns that I believe need to be addressed. First and foremost, it will have a significant impact on my ability to provide an individualised approach to the education of each of my children to specifically meet their unique curriculum needs. The essence of homeschooling lies in the freedom and flexibility it affords children to learn in a manner that aligns with their individual interests, abilities, and learning styles. By imposing a mandated curriculum, these proposed changes would impede my children's autonomy and hinder their ability to pursue education in a way that best suits their needs. Furthermore, enforcing a standardised curriculum fails to recognize the diverse interests and talents of homeschooling students. It overlooks the fact that every child is unique and may thrive in different subject areas or learning environments. By imposing rigid educational requirements, we risk depriving our children of the opportunity to pursue their passions and develop their full potential. As an active participant in the homeschool community, we participate regularly in multiage learning co-ops and group activities. We regularly capitalise on instruction and lessons from other parents, community members and experts in their fields. Sometimes, this sparks interests and passions within our children and we are able to go away and deeply explore an area of interest. Enforcing the Australian Curriculum will severely limit this opportunistic learning and stifle the ability for us to form multi-age groups as the topics they will be investigating would be dictated according to their year level. My children are passionate, open-minded, creative, tolerant, intelligent, hard-working and respectful, and each have diverse skillsets. I have explored in detail the pathways into higher education through both VET and university and am actively providing the curriculum and skills that will allow each of my children to pursue their goals and dreams and become valuable contributing members of our community. I am also worried 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 students and homeschooling families. Rather than imposing stricter regulations, I urge the committee to prioritize understanding and addressing the root causes of homeschooling trends. This entails listening to and considering the feedback from homeschooling parents, who are directly impacted by these legislative changes. Their insights and experiences are invaluable in shaping effective policies that support the diverse needs of families while ensuring the well-being and educational success of 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 and homeschooling families. 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.