

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members

I am a home educating parent of 2 children, ages 7 and 6, and I have a background in children's education.

I am writing today to express my deep reservations about the proposed changes to the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, specifically the home education requirements and reporting.

I am a mum to young boys and a former childcare worker. I have been home educating for 3 years now. My boys are very passionate about their interests and the way in which they learn and move makes home educating the best possible choice for them. They have thrived in our home environment, and I am immensely proud of the achievements they have made and the goals they have ticked off.

As our current home education requirements state, we must be providing a high-quality education to our children, and without using ACARA, I have been able to do this to a high standard. I believe that by following the children's interests, any subject can be learnt, and the information RETAINED. Compare this if you please, to children in schools who are forced to use the rigid ACARA curriculum – their passion for learning and creativity is hindered, the teachers have stated they have less engagement from the students. We don't have this in our home education environment as the children's interests are followed.

I am pretty sure that all of what we do, could be covered in some way or another using ACARA, so that is not the problem here. The problem is that the reporting, and consequently the planning, is proposed to change and you expect the small quantity of staff at Home Education Unit to read every single one and provide feedback? Those of us who know what we are doing, have never had a plan or report that was 'failed', and those who needed to provide extra information, were asked to do so, and then complied. I don't see any issue with the way we are working now.

I wonder why it was, that the home educating community were not involved in the proposal communications. Specifically, Amanda Bartle and Patricia Fitzgerald, who represent our community and who were purposely excluded. There are hundreds of us who did not receive any communication about this, and who only found out through social media. Perhaps there should be an official QLD state homeschooling association?

The numbers of home educating families have increased over the past 4 years, by a large number, that I am sure that you are aware of. Most of these families have left the school system, for a variety of reasons. My family also left the school system for our own reasons, and I think your attention needs to be on the reason WHY. WHY are parents pulling their children out of school and choosing to home educate? WHY are there many teachers who have chosen to home educate? WHY is there so much mental illness in children these days? Your priority shouldn't be on how to make more families fall through the cracks by driving them underground, but on how to repair the school system!

Have you even talked to families who home educate?

Have you talked to children who have homeschooled and have gone to University?

Have you met with anyone who has experience using the current model of HEU?

Looking forward to your reply,

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