

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

As a retired teacher of more than 25 years in Queensland Public Schools and having spent some time in the TAFE system, I have formulated some assessments of the state system and although not involved in home-schooling personally, I have taught students who had been home - schooled. Previously I was against home-schooling because some of these students would often be a few terms below their age cohort and not only did they find the curriculum difficult to negotiate but they experienced issues socially. This situation was not applicable to all and there would be some very well educated ones who were also socially competent. However, the current National Curriculum appears to be trying to correct years of low achieving students, as evidenced by NAPLAN results, and catch them up with concentrated accelerated material that they are unable to grasp because they haven't the basic foundations of skills required to apply. E.g. year two students having to include direct speech in text as well as verb conjugations. I spent a large proportion in my career taking whole classes at this level of students who could not read basic CVC words or who could not write their name. I would take these children up to the next year and the following year pick up another cohort of non readers. These students would have struggled with little to no hope of success without this intervention. Back to home schooling. Given a dedicated parent/volunteer who was themselves trained in individual instruction with a structured lock/step method these children could possibly be rescued. The other end of the spectrum of brighter students could be accelerated by complex reasoning problem solving assignments, computer tutorials and Rich Tasks. Education is not one size fits all. Certainly the National Curriculum should be adhered to but the pace and methods could be tailored to the individual. Methods in the state school have become nebulous and varied as to the individual teacher. Too much time is given to videos and computer teaching when often modelling, explanations, diagrams, thoughtful questioning, hand on experiences and not progressing until the concept is understood and successfully applied works better for all. The state system needs overhauling, not just tweaking. Too much theory and not enough tried methods are forcing parents into collective home-schooling and driving teachers out of the system not to mention useless paperwork. I loved my years of teaching and was described as The Teacher who always gave 110%. However because of the lack of control in many classrooms today the stunted curriculum the ridiculous methods, I probably would be home schooling my own children. My brother in law, now a retired Supreme Court Judge, successfully submitted to the Queensland Parliament to return the power of suspension to the principals rather than some insignificant public service office. Kids are falling through the cracks as evidenced by truancy, poor attendance, low achievement and angry and disenfranchised parents. If home-schooling fills a needed gap, then leave it alone. Maybe seek to support this situation at least until the current state and national system fulfils its objectives with concrete results.