

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Dear Committee members, Please note my previous email had no letter. Dear Committee members, I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed changes to home education requirements in Queensland, particularly the shift towards a standardized, one-size-fits-all approach. The essence of home education lies in its flexibility and adaptability, qualities that set it apart from traditional school-based education. Unlike schools, where educators must cater to the needs of large groups of same-aged children, homeschooling parents have the unique ability to tailor educational activities and lessons to each individual child's needs on a daily basis. This personalized approach allows for a diverse range of subjects and learning areas to be covered, with the flexibility to address each child's age, ability, aptitude, and development in a holistic manner. The proposed changes, however, seem to overlook the fundamental nature of home education and instead aim to impose a standardized curriculum that may not be suitable for every child. By mandating adherence to an approved education and training program, the proposed requirements risk limiting the scope and choice currently available to homeschooling families. This move towards standardization undermines the very essence of home education and could hinder the ability of parents to provide a high-quality, personalized education for their children. Furthermore, the definition of an approved education program, which includes the national school curriculum (Australian Curriculum), fails to recognize the diverse range of resources and learning approaches utilized by homeschooling families. This narrow definition does not adequately reflect the rich and varied educational experiences available to homeschooled children, which often draw from a multitude of sources beyond the Australian Curriculum. In light of these concerns, I urge the committee to reconsider the proposed changes and instead focus on supporting and empowering homeschooling families to continue providing personalized, high-quality education for their children. Let us not limit the opportunity for flexible and adaptable learning that is the hallmark of home education. As a grandmother to 10 grandchildren, 5 of which attend mainstream private and public schools and 5 who are home educated by their parents through the Home Education Unit (HEU). I believe my homeschooled grandchildren learn more life skills such as, but not limited to: cooking, budgeting, socialising, sewing, helping within the community as well as child lead interest-based learning in more depth than the Australian Curriculum allows. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Sincerely, JT Grandmother to 5 homeschooled grandchildren, Former homeschooling parent to 1 daughter and advocate.