

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee, I write because I'm concerned about proposed changes to the way Home Education is now administered in Queensland. I Home Educated my son for five years through years 8 to 12 and was registered with and reported to the Home Education Unit through that five years, completing this some 12 years ago. Our first year was the first year of a new reporting system for Home Education in Queensland which guided us and gave us a format for reporting our progress and continuous improvement. My son is now turning 30 and has been a qualified chef for many years now and recently went to University and received mostly High Distinctions and Distinctions for the Diploma he was doing. One of his friends from his teenage years never attended formal schools and went straight from Home Education to doing a double degree then straight into the industry of his choice, living in Japan and being paid a very high salary. I mention this as an illustration of how effective Home Education has been for us and for all other families I know who have Educated their children outside the government or private education sector. During our time of Home Education I was encouraged to be on the Home Education Advisory Board due to our excellent Reporting and example of working with the new Home Education system at the time. I spent three years on the Board and got to see first hand how effective the HEU was at the time and how caring and supportive of families they were. The HEU representatives and others on the Board seemed to really care about children having a quality education through Home Education and supporting that process as best they could. I'm sure it's still the case today. My concern with the proposed changes is that families won't be able to make their own determinations about what is best for their child. Parents should be able to choose a curriculum that works for each individual child. The National Curriculum is designed for large classrooms of children, not for a personalized teaching environment. Not everyone fits into a conventional classroom. I am a Trainer and Facilitator by trade and I train teachers and facilitators in the use of creative, interactive learning methods as best practice for effective learning and memory retention. Not every child's learning style or needs are met through teachers having to follow a 'one size fits all' curriculum. I am told by parents currently Home Educating that the current registration and reporting system are working well, there is no need to change it. Instead of making things more prescriptive for homeschooling families, I wonder if the Government would be willing to review the school system and find out why so many students and their families are choosing Home Education. Thank you and I wish every child the best opportunity to learn in the style and environment that will best meet their needs.