

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Via email: eetsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Members,

SUBMISSION - Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

I am a homeschooling educator and wish to object to the abovementioned Bill. 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 objections to the potential impact of these changes on our education system.

I do not support the proposed changes. My child would not benefit from strictly adhering to the Australian Curriculum and I certainly would be disadvantaged by having to report on all subjects as per the proposed changes. The changes would increase the workload required by myself to report as well as the workload for my child who has a learning disability (in particular slow processing) to be able to complete.

My child whilst at school was mentally affected by the overwhelming amount of work that was allocated to her, and the teachers had to modify her work because she was unable to meet the demands of the curriculum. There is no provision in the proposed changes to cater for any child with a learning disability and anxiety such children will experience.

I agree that every child deserves the right to have access to a high-quality education. However, I must express my reservations regarding the adequacy of the Australian Curriculum in fulfilling this fundamental right in today's interconnected world, where the internet provides instant global access to a wealth of educational resources and innovative curricula, it's imperative that we reconsider the notion of a one-size-fits-all approach to education.

Homeschooling provides families with the flexibility to tailor education to the specific needs, interests, and values of their children. While some families may choose to follow the national curriculum as a guide, forcing homeschool students to strictly adhere to it may not be ideal for several reasons:

1. **Individualized Learning:** Homeschooling allows for personalized, individualized learning experiences that can cater to a child's unique learning style, pace, and interests. Forcing homeschool students to follow a rigid national curriculum would limit their ability to explore subjects deeply or pursue areas of passion. This is something my child in particular enjoys pursuing.
2. **Tailoring Education:** Homeschooling allows parents to tailor education to address their child's strengths, weaknesses, and areas of need. They can provide additional support in areas where the child struggles or accelerate learning in subjects where the child excels. A rigid national curriculum may not allow for this level of customization. My child definitely requires additional support in order for her to learn.
3. **Respecting Parental Rights:** Parents have a fundamental right to direct the education and upbringing of their children. Forcing homeschool students to follow a national curriculum infringes upon this parental right and autonomy in educational decision-making.

I am 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 ability to educate our children to the highest standard.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed education legislation and to prioritize the best interests of our rapidly growing and proactive home educating community. 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. I look forward to your response on this important issue.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Homeschooling Parent