

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1311
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Submitter Comments:

Dear Submissions committee, I am writing to express my concerns re the proposed Bill to change conditions for homeschoolers in Queensland. I am a registered Bachelor Qualified Early Childhood teacher, single mum of two teenagers who have been homeschooled. Both children started with the Home Education Dept, entered formal education at Years 3 and 5, and both returned to homeschooling due to mental and physical health situations by their Years 5 and 7. Homeschooling meant that I could give them an education that enlivened (and reenlivened!) their sense of identity, cater to their individual needs and provide a 'high quality', joyous learning program using their interests and passions. I am particularly concerned about the proposal to mandate ACARA outcomes in Home Education Unit reporting. Reporting to the ACARA curriculum greatly stunts my ability - even as a trained teacher - to provide an individualised and appropriate education for my children's needs. As I learnt in my degree, all kids - in this case My kids - need learning to be meaningful, relevant and embedded in real life situations. This is not necessarily reflected in a prescriptive curriculum as per ACARA - there are Many options, levels and topics that Homeschoolers should be able to pursue in their individualised learning journeys! In light of our situation, I am also concerned about the removal of the 60 day provisional registration. Those who choose to pursue home based learning in response to their children mental and physical health needs are often doing so in high stress situations - with grave concerns for their children's well being. Unfortunately this is often in response to a school's inability to address issues due to physical and emotional resources of well meaning but overworked schooling professionals. Parents and children in these cases need time to recover, attend to urgent health issues and take time to focus on their plan for learning. Please do not make it harder for parents who are choosing to invest their lives in their children's individual, wholistic and meaningful learning journeys. Thankyou

Annika Simons