

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1316
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Submitter Comments:

Dear Honourable Members of Parliament, I am reaching out with a matter of significant concern regarding the proposed changes to the homeschooling regulations within Queensland. These adjustments not only risk curtailing the freedoms we currently enjoy in delivering bespoke educational experiences to our children but also pose questions about the very nature of creativity, academic excellence, and the recognition of diverse pathways to tertiary education. One of the most valuable aspects of homeschooling, free from the constraints of the national curriculum, is the unparalleled freedom it offers children to explore their creativity. This environment, devoid of distractions and the pressure to produce work solely for ticking boxes, fosters genuine learning and innovation. It's a setting where education is not just about adhering to a prescribed syllabus but about encouraging a love for learning that transcends traditional boundaries. Our current system, which involves setting annual work plans with guidelines provided by the Home Education Unit (HEU), and providing an annual report, is designed to ensure a high-quality education. I am compelled to ask:

- What evidence supports the notion that this existing framework fails to deliver a high-quality education?
- How does the proposed change promise to enhance educational outcomes for home-educated children?

It's noteworthy that many families incorporate university courses, such as those offered through Open Universities, into their curriculum. This practice not only prepares children for tertiary study but often allows them to commence their degrees ahead of their peers. The proposed legislation seems to overlook the benefits of such early university entry, indirectly questioning the competency of Australia's tertiary institutions to assess the suitability of undergraduate candidates based on their diverse educational backgrounds. The new legislation includes provisions that could significantly limit educational opportunities. Being restricted to the Australian Curriculum disregards the vast array of global resources and unique learning opportunities that home education affords. Moreover, the requirement to prove that homeschooling is in the best interest of our children raises potential human rights concerns, particularly as these measures were not part of the original consultation with the home educating community. In light of these points, it is evident that the proposed changes not only undervalue the effectiveness of the current homeschooling approach but also pose unnecessary burdens on home educators. Such limitations do not align with the ethos of providing a tailored, high-quality education that meets the unique needs and interests of each child. Therefore, I urge you to reconsider these proposed changes, recognizing the value of maintaining the flexibility and diversity that home education offers. Our objective remains to foster environments where creativity thrives without boundaries, and where children are prepared for a future that acknowledges their individual talents and potential. With the utmost respect, I hope for a constructive dialogue that places the educational welfare of our children at the forefront of this discussion. Sincerely,