

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Dear Committee members,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent education legislation changes in regard to home schooling that have been proposed in our state. As a constituent and a member of the community, I believe it is crucial to voice my apprehensions about the potential impact of these changes on our education system.

While my children are currently too young to attend school, I am planning to educate my children at home when they are old enough. I have a number of reasons for this:

1. My children have already learnt, before being old enough to attend school, the beginnings of what they would learn in school. I am concerned that in a mainstream classroom setting that their learning would stall, whereas at home I can continue to educate them without disruption. I am also excited to integrate my children's interests at their level in their best learning style at their preferred time of day across various learning areas. Intrinsic motivation for learning will always lead to a better outcome than extrinsic and will lead to a lifelong love of learning. I know that the current curriculum covers such a wide range of topics that students don't always get to fully understand what they are being taught as it needs to be finished for the next topic to begin, yet there are complaints when NAPLAN results are down.
2. My children are easily distracted and tend to copy other children who are being disobedient. In a classroom with 20+ other students where there's bound to be some off task, this will have a negative impact on my children's learning.
3. I don't want my children exposed to particular philosophies that are becoming more prevalent in society and education before they are old enough to understand them. The removal of the use of gendered language is an example of this – my children have known that there are boys & girls for years why would I confuse them now by removing those words from our vocabulary?

Moreover, 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 schools. These changes have the potential to force students into mainstream schools where there is an often-reported teacher shortage which will further burden the education system.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed education legislation and to prioritize the best interests of our students, teachers, and schools. 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 and to further dialogue on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Karen Galea
Home school parent-to-be