

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

I object to the proposed changes to homeschooling in Queensland. My family and I are currently living in Tasmania but are intending on moving to Queensland in the near future. My points of major concern to the proposed changes in the legislation are seeing families losing their freedom of choice to homeschool their children how they see fit is best for their children. Not to mention the added stress this would add to families to keep up with the standard of education that the government sees is best for children. Personally I have 3 children aged 7 and under who are neurodivergent and seemed to do ok in mainstream school, or so I thought. Covid particularly opened our eyes to a new way of learning for our children and having a term at home seeing my anxiety ridden, dysregulated daughter who seemed to be doing fine at school but would fall to pieces afterwards go from hating the pressure of school, particularly reading, to becoming more relaxed, happy, content and reading all the time in such a short space of time. We sent her back to school and saw her slip back again and not having a teacher that she felt comfortable with for her prep year added to her stress. We tried to negotiate going part time but were declined so we made the decision to homeschool fully and its been the best decision we've made. She literally taught my 4 year old to read as well last year and they are both going through chapter book after chapter book and loving it. My middle child was also enrolled into mainstream school but after a few pre-kinder sessions at 4 she sat in a corner in the foetal position not wanting to talk to anyone. We got her to play with some activities but as soon as another child would approach she would take off. She goes non-verbal when she is uncomfortable or around new people. Homeschooling has been amazing for her and she is now, without me pushing her and putting her in uncomfortable situations, starting to interact with others. It's beautiful to see her emerge at her own pace. I love the freedom and connected, quality time with family and friends that homeschooling has brought us over the last couple of years and how much more settled and happy my children are because of that. The freedom for child-led learning is fantastic too because it gets them excited and exploring their areas of interest. It's a fantastic opportunity for families lucky enough to be able to do it. Don't take this from us. With the demands that families are facing these days with women also needing to work full time and children being put into day care as babies, then pre-school, after school care, vacation care, then school, university, work.... the next generation will be a generation of 'institutionalised' people. I'm by no way mocking mainstream school or criticising parents who choose to put their children into these school based organisations, but let us as parents make the choice for our children. We know them best. It's ok to be different! To learn different, to have different values and choose different paths! We don't want to all be the same! I ask you, how is that going to change the world? My family and I want so badly to relocate to your wonderful state of Queensland and continue our homeschool journey and our way of life in your beautiful place. Please leave things as they are. Trust that parents are raising beautiful, strong, smart, unique people that will one day change our world for the better. Give us the freedom to choose.