

## Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 1371  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
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**Submitter Comments:**

I am writing in regard to the proposed changes to the education legislation in our state. I am a student currently in Year 11. I have been home educated for my entire school career.

Firstly I would love to thank the Queensland Department of Education for the wonderful freedom in home education we have in our state. I have personally felt the numerous benefits of our current homeschooling system.

The lack of a structured curriculum has meant that my parents were empowered to create a tailored curriculum based upon my own personal interests, gifting, and abilities. This freedom has allowed me to explore my interests without feeling overly stressed or overwhelmed.

I have also felt many social benefits. Being educated along with my two brothers, by our parents, has played a major role in strengthening our family relationship, we have many discussions together about everything from maths to history around the dinner table.

Throughout my education, I have interacted with students and adults of many ages and backgrounds. Because of this, I feel comfortable communicating with children younger than myself, students of my own age, and adults older than me. This is a skill I believe will benefit me greatly in my life after school.

I have never been bullied. I believe that had I gone to school, I would have felt limited by the expectations of my peers, as to my interests and personality. I feel that I would have been discouraged by them in pursuing my own interests, such as writing, craft, sewing, weaving and art. Not having this negative pressure has enabled me to explore my own interests, with the guidance and encouragement of my parents. My home education has strengthened my identity, and given me to confidence to explore the world around me, learn, and have fun.

Learning for us isn't restricted into 'School' time. I don't hate learning. I don't dread history, or science, or maths, unlike, unfortunately, some of my friends, who attend schools, do. Learning is part of my life. It's not separated out, into a separate 'School' time.

This year I am completing a Cert II through TAFE Qld. In second semester, I will also complete a University subject at UniSQ, through their Headstart program, which allows senior secondary school students to do university subjects.

My plan for next year is to complete three more subjects through this program, which would come off the Uni degree I will most likely study after school: Speech Pathology.

With alternative pathways, I can gain all the entry requirements into this degree without the unnecessary stresses involved in school exams.

I am concerned that the proposed education legislation changes in our state will not allow for University programs such as Headstart, to be completed. This would greatly hinder me in my future studies and thus career.

I am also concerned with the proposal that home educators need to follow ACARA or other approved curriculum. This would cause the amount of flexibility to decrease dramatically in my learning content and style. Thus far I have received a high quality education, and am at level with my peers, who attend schools. I am on track to attend university, and am already completing a Cert II this year.

Rather than improving our education standard, following ACARA would likely slow us down, as it would cause my parents a lot of extra work in fitting the curriculum to my needs and abilities. ACARA is geared towards students in schools, who will be completing exams at the end of year 12, in order to receive an ATAR rank. Being home educated, I will not need to complete, nor, in fact, have access to, such exams. Using alternate pathways, I can enter the University degree I wish to

study without the stress of such exams, or an ATAR, meaning that I can avoid the stresses often attached to such things, positively impacting my mental and emotional health.

Thus enforcing the use of the ACARA curriculum in a home education setting is unnecessary, and likely, detrimental, to the education of the students.

I thank you for taking the time to read my letter, and considering my concerns.