

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

**Submission No:** 1382  
**Submitted by:** Timothy Walker  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members, I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed legislative changes in education aimed at home schoolers. As a member of the homeschooling community, I feel marginalised by the lack of representation and the biased approach taken towards these changes. It is disheartening that individuals holding views similar to mine, including advocates such as Amanda Bartle and Patricia Fitzgerald, have been intentionally excluded from the discussion due to the absence of an official state homeschooling association. This exclusion deprives us of a fair opportunity to voice our concerns and contribute meaningfully to the decision-making process. The proposed changes seem to stem from a fundamental misunderstanding or disregard for the motivations and outcomes of homeschooling families. There is a failure to recognise the persistent shortcomings of mainstream education, which have led many families, including mine, to opt for homeschooling as a last resort rather than a choice. In my personal experience, mainstream schooling failed to accommodate my son's neurodivergent needs, resulting in trauma and distress for him and our family. Despite being enrolled in mainstream education, my son could not adequately follow the prescribed curriculum, as his educational requirements were not being met. Moreover, the accountability of mainstream education institutions was lacking, with numerous incidents and systemic failures going unaddressed. The mainstream educational experience proved to be traumatic and unsuitable for my child, yet alternatives were not adequately explored or facilitated by the education department. As a homeschooling parent, I am now tasked with the responsibility of providing my son's education while juggling other familial and financial obligations. The demands imposed by Education Queensland for planning, reporting, and ensuring a quality education are ironic, considering the department's own failures in providing such an education within mainstream settings. I urge the committee to consider the following questions:

- Where is the research on the failures of mainstream schools that have contributed to the growth of homeschooling?
- Why prioritise exerting control and compliance over exploring the demographics and challenges faced by homeschooling families?
- Why obstruct alternative educational approaches rather than supporting them to alleviate the burden on the education system?
- What measures are being taken to effectively implement inclusive education policies, particularly for children with disabilities who often face inadequate support in mainstream settings?
- Is there evidence to support the notion that traditional, compartmentalised learning approaches are superior to personalised, interest-based learning? Homeschooling fosters a culture of self-discovery, confidence-building, and passion pursuit, unlike the fear-inducing atmosphere often associated with traditional education. It is imperative for policymakers to recognise and embrace the diversity of educational approaches that align with the evolving needs of modern society. In conclusion, I urge the committee to acknowledge the value of homeschooling as a legitimate educational choice and to ensure that legislative changes are made in consultation with all stakeholders, including homeschooling families. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Sincerely, Timothy Walker