

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

**Submission No:** 1408  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent education legislation changes that have been proposed in our state. As a homeschooling parent, constituent, and a member of the community, I believe it is of the utmost importance to communicate my concerns about the effect of these changes on our education system. I am tertiary educated; I hold a Bachelors and a Master's Degree and am someone deeply invested in the education of my children. I have made the choice to homeschool, recognising that the mainstream educational system may not always suit or, in some cases, can even harm children. Over the years, I've had the privilege of homeschooling my 2 children, each with their unique learning styles, interests, and needs including their health and medical needs. These experiences have provided me with invaluable insights into the challenges and opportunities of homeschooling and the importance of a holistic approach to educating and life learning. I have three main concerns about the proposed changes to home education: 1. Lack of reasons and evidence for changes in legislation.

2. Clause 18 provides amongst other things that home education of a child should be provided in a way that is in the best interests of the child and also ensures they receive a high-quality education.

3. Clauses 61 & 68 provides amongst other things that any home education program must be consistent with an approved education and training program (defined as the Australian curriculum) that the parent of the child must give the Chief Executive a written report, on each subject, for the period the child is registered for home education and the report must be accompanied by evidence satisfactory to the Chief Executive that demonstrates the educational progress of the child. I firmly believe that without lived experience, it's challenging to fully grasp the intricacies of homeschooling and to understand what legislative measures are truly needed to ensure homeschooled children receive a quality education. It certainly is not up to an individual in government to decide, especially without any clear definition of the meaning as you have proposed in the bill. I believe this also impedes on our basic Human Rights and Parental Rights. I am not happy with the lack of representation and actively excluding homeschool representatives at your consultation. Because of this I was not represented in the second round of consultation. In Qld there is no official state homeschooling association, we do however have extensive well networked online communities – to which a call for representation could have been made. The people who I feel most represent me (e.g. Amanda Bartle, and Patricia Fitzgerald) were not invited to participate. Please outline: • How your department identified who to involve in 'representative consultation'? • Was a broader call for possible participants sent to registered home educators? • Why were businesses possible participants, but a 'roundtable' of home educating parents was not? • Given the high level of evidence-based criticism against the proposed changes, how can you be confident that consultation was indeed adequate? • Why were emails not sent out to all registered homeschooling families to advise them of the changes and direct them to the Committee for a submission? • How many agreed with the suggestion to connect the definition of high quality education to ACARA and with what supporting evidence is this the only way? To homeschool is not merely about enforcing rigid curriculum requirements but rather about fostering an environment that empowers parents to provide personalized, holistic education tailored to their children's individual needs and aspirations. Home Educators currently meet a standard that involves setting annual work plans, along with annual reporting, meeting the requirements of a high-quality education and learning environment. Can you please advise with the evidence you have that the existing system is not leading to a High-

quality Education for home educated children, and the evidence you have that your rigid proposed changes will lead to better outcomes for every home-schooled child. While the Australian curriculum may be presented as a superior option, it's essential to acknowledge that it's just one of many possibilities. For some children, it may indeed be adequate, but for others, it may not align with their learning preferences or life goals or with the depth of understanding the child may crave. I would also like to know how you will proceed to include those children in the Public and Private schooling sector that are meeting just satisfactory and below satisfactory grades, those that are struggling and not showing adequate progress, those that are not in an environment that is nurturing and beneficial to their needs, those with anxiety from being bullied and those simply left behind because they fail to be engaged and flourish within the current system. Are they being included and considered in your proposed enforcement of high quality education and superior learning and safe environment for every child of Qld ? If that was happening already, wouldn't there be less families homeschooling. I take great offence that I am only homeschooling because of the pandemic and because of social media trends as implied by MP Dianne Farmer. I was officially registered and home educating before the pandemic and this clearly highlights the deficient knowledge and insight of the homeschooling community. In conclusion, I urge the committee to approach homeschooling legislation with a deep appreciation for the lived experiences of homeschooling families and a commitment to ensuring that all children have access to a quality education that meets their unique needs. By listening to the voices of homeschooling parents and advocating for policies that promote flexibility, autonomy, and inclusivity, we can create a more equitable and responsive educational system for all. Thank you for considering my perspective. Sincerely, [REDACTED]