


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

**Submission No:** 1410  
**Submitted by:**   
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Attachments:** See attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

## Submission

# EDUCATION (GENERAL PROVISIONS) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the recent education legislation changes that have been proposed in Queensland. 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 these changes will have on our education system.

Foremost as a mother of three individuals with unique learning styles, interests, and personalities I would like to tell our story and why we chose home education. My husband and I were granted custody of his 5 year old son a few weeks prior to commencement of his first school year, we followed the status quo by enrolling our son in our local government catchment primary school, this didn't last one full year as our son was involved in multiple incidents where he was physically and emotionally abused, we received multiple calls for head trauma, including him having had his head stuck inside a piano for several hours.

we soon began researching alternative schools, after considering many we chose a small private school with less than 120 students, we felt that this would allow him a more individualized and personal educational experience with age blended classes and buddy systems we were confident he would flourish in this setting. He experienced more bullying, judgement and suffered severe emotional trauma from teachers. It was our sons seventh year, two months into the school term we were horrified to learn our son had planned his suicide as a direct result of school bullying. We immediately removed him from this school. We prioritized his needs emotionally and physically and supported him in his recovery over many months it was during this time we chose to home educate; he is sixteen now and thriving learning from home. He is well mannered, polite, caring and excelling in areas of interest too him as an individual.

The proposed legislation raises several pressing concerns that I believe need to be addressed. Firstly, I want to highlight that removal of ALL immediate provisional registration options, is not in the safety or best interests of the child. the option of provisional registration is needed for the safety of child in circumstances such as our own. The idea that a short period of time spent away from a formal learning plan will be detrimental to a child in emotional mental distress is completely unfounded, the current ability to apply to HEU under section 208 and then send a Plan in a few weeks later, provides that much needed space for a parent to think about and learn

what they want to do and how they will do that, moving forward, when they have had to remove their child suddenly. if the purpose is to improve child safety, then why would you remove provisional registration options put in place to support both the child and parent through this transition. Forcing the parent to feel trapped between doing what is best for their child by making an informed decision or rushing into the first alternative option available, being a distance education program or under researched, rushed educational plan being submitted to HEU.

Furthermore, who decides what is in the best interest of my child if not I the parent the mother or father? I very strongly oppose the notion that I will coparent my children with the government. Homeschooling is not a decision taken lightly by parents and or families, sacrifices are more often than not being made in order for them to support their child, such as one parent is unable to work on a full-time schedule in order to home educate.

Parents will need to provide proof that their child is suffering from distress within the school environment, or is unable to learn within the confines of the school environment in order to choose home education because just knowing who your child is, how they learn, what inspires them, what triggers them, their emotional and physical boundaries and having birthed them and raised them is no longer enough for our judgement of what's in their best interest to be valid in educational choice.

The aim to limit our children by implementing that every home educated child in Queensland be learning and following the Australian curriculum is narrow minded as is to assert that our home educated children are not already receiving a high-quality education.

We have access ACARA should we choose to use it, the 20% referred to by the education department representative during the committee briefing are exactly that 20% - a small percentage of home educators that feel their child was able to succeed using ACARA at that time. Individualized educational plans for each individual child allowing flexibility and interest-based learning to take place fosters a love for lifelong learning. To insist that a high-quality education comes from a one size and shape fits all approach is archaic, in a modern world we should be embracing change, supporting, and encouraging branching growth through education.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for considering my concerns.

