

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1412
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I write in solidarity with my home educating fellow Australians. I wish to object to the proposed legislative changes that will affect the home education community in Queensland. I am an expat Australian who currently home educates in the UK. Here we enjoy the freedom to not have to follow a set curriculum. The English school system and National Curriculum here is woefully behind the times and def not a model to emulate - you guys are better than that in Australia! As the parent of three autistic children I feel it's crucial for their education to suit their needs and also to be adaptable and responsive to their interests and strengths and weaknesses. Having to adhere to a national curriculum when home educating is short sighted and defeats the point of having children educated out of the school system. Having to adhere to a narrow, national curriculum is limiting and comes across as controlling of the QLD government. QLD is famed for being more sensible and open minded than this! Home educating parents should be free to pick and choose what aspects of any curriculum or educational philosophy they feel would work best for their children. Home education isn't a recreation of a school based model, but instead is a holistic bespoke approach to education than many families chose because the school system is limiting or does not work for, or has even failed their children. Parents will always have their children's best interests at heart, so please do trust them to educate their children without reducing freedoms for parents to meet their children's educational needs according to age ability and aptitude. There is no real need at all to place limitations on educational freedom here. The additional workload placed upon parents to then report about meeting ACARA outcomes and demonstrating age related progress and levels shows a complete misunderstanding about what home education involved and how parents educate and also is not reasonable or proportionate. Home education isn't a recreation of a school based model, but instead is a holistic bespoke model of education than many chose because the school system is limiting or does not work for their children. Having to adhere to a set curriculum discriminates against those families whose children may be neurodiverse, have disabilities or be gifted etc - many families elect to home educate to meet their children's needs because the school system is inflexible. Why make home education more rigid and remove that much needed flexibility? This proposed oversight and intrusion into people's private lives contravenes both Article 2 and Article 8 of the Human Rights Act. It also will be more costly to have to employ people and put into place mechanisms to oversee and monitor this proposal. Surely the funding required for the additional administration workload at government level to implement this could be put to better use within the school system?