

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

I do not agree to the proposed changes. The proposed changes take away a valid, safe alternative to mainstream schooling. Particularly: the requirement to follow the national curriculum. The curriculum is written for teachers to implement. Trained, tertiary educated teachers. Many of them face difficulties with following it, how are families, who often turn to home educating in a crisis situation, meant to deliver it? It barely works at school, doesn't work for many kids, and especially won't work for those who learn in an alternate environment. How is this to be implemented? How can the HEU (already underfunded, understaffed and unable to meet the needs of the entire home educating community) meant to roll this out? I'm not content for my tax dollars to fund this. The load this adds to home educating families in terms of reporting will be far too onerous to justify, particularly when it likely means a more stressed family and dysregulated student. More work, for no benefit, and in fact, detriment. The removal of provisional registration is bordering on cruel. Families need the provisional arrangements to allow a transition from mainstream schooling. In addition, I am concerned about the lack of appropriate representative consultation: Qld has NO official state homeschooling association. The two people representing the people directly, Amanda Bartle and Patricia Fitzgerald, were actively excluded, as they are not an association. Amanda and Patricia were well known to the EGPA review team and directors, and were actively excluded, as was mentioned in the briefing. Home educators themselves were not represented in the second round of consultation because of this. The ability for home educating families to make submissions now does not fulfil the obligation of proper consultation. Further, the home schooling community themselves were not asked who they wanted as a consultation representative, as there is NO official QLD association. Why were businesses consulted but not the people? My niece and nephew are home educated and have been for a number of years. This path was chosen as a last ditch effort to help two kids whose mental health was in steep decline after years at main stream primary school. My sister did EVERYTHING before moving to home educating. The school did everything they could. It was not the people, but the system. Provisional registration to allowed time for her family to gather themselves, address the kids health concerns, and get a handle on what learning could look like for them. A few weeks attempting to follow the curriculum showed that was not a viable option. Both kids are now, finally, back to their true selves, no longer physically or mentally unwell and I am horrified to contemplate where they would be at (if still on this earth at all) had they not been able to develop their own mode of education at home.