

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1478
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Submitter Comments:

To the Committee, I am writing in response to the proposed changes to current homeschooling requirements in Queensland. I am deeply concerned about the suggested expectation to follow the Australian curriculum and for the government to be responsible for determining children who are eligible for home education. I currently have two children attending mainstream school and one child homeschooling. I pulled out my son at the end of Year 6 as he was falling behind and missing key concepts in English and Maths. Over the years, I had often questioned teachers regarding his learning and attention in class as I was concerned he was easily distracted and not tracking along at a similar developmental rate to his peers. Teachers agreed that he was easily distracted and not a high achieving student in English and Maths but assured me there was nothing to worry about. He has since undergone extensive testing and been diagnosed with ADHD (Inattentive). The Paediatrician and Psychologist we have been seeing have been a wonderful support and given me a range of strategies to implement to assist my son in his learning. He is now thriving in the home education setting. Since homeschooling, I have seen a significant improvement in his understanding of concepts, benefiting from the one-on-one assistance I can give him. He is also improving in his focus and attention without the distraction of a class full of students, noise and inappropriate behaviour. Another main reason my husband and I chose to remove him from school is the fact that he suffers from medical ailments which we have been investigating for a number of years and are yet to find the underlying cause. The issues my son was dealing with was resulting in bullying from other students at school and low self esteem, affecting his academic performance, mood, motivation and general disposition. He is now much happier and experiencing increased confidence because of home education. I appreciate the current freedom to select the appropriate curriculum for my son and his learning needs. Although I select English, Maths and Science textbooks which are Australian made and adhere to ACARA standards, I am grateful we are able to cover other learning areas using other programs and curriculums which benefit him, his interests and learning styles. Keeping my son in mainstream education would have been the easiest option for me by far. Thankfully I am fortunate enough to have family support as I am juggling part-time work and other children in mainstream school. However, the easy option is not the best option for my son. His mental wellbeing and academic success are much more important and worth far more than the sacrifices made to home educate him. I urge you to consider the negative impacts these changes will have on individual home educated students like my son and vote to ensure their current homeschooling success will continue. Please don't force him back into the education which failed him in the first place. Regards, Candace Baird