

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

**Submission No:** 1533  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

I disagree with the proposed requirement for home educated children in Queensland to have to follow the Australian Curriculum. I believe the Australian Curriculum moves too fast in schools, it's a tick the box we've done that, not an in-depth learning opportunity. I have had 2 children go through mainstream each completing grade 12. One has ongoing mental health issues from the pressure of the senior years, including self-harm. One got involved with kids involved with drugs at the school and it has taken him a number of years post graduation to break out of the drug circle and usage and get his life on track. He also left school almost illiterate and lacking basic maths, he fell through the cracks, his irlen syndrome learning disability needs were never met properly at school, he was made to feel stupid and lost any interest in learning. I began homeschooling my middle daughter with distance education in year 4 as she was struggling socially in mainstream school. That was not a good fit as the distance education school followed school curriculum, the workload was not manageable and not flexible. After going back to mainstream in Year 5 and bullying continuing - to the final time in the beginning of year 7 - she was ambulated from the English classroom on a stretcher due to a peer pulling her chair out from under her and her injuring her tail bone to the point she couldn't stand. She was admitted to hospital for pain relief and mental health assessment due to the bullying experiences and severe anxiety. The prior day the same peer had kicked the cast of her broken arm and left a shoe size dent and she was collected from school and taken to the emergency department for assessment. The boy inflicted this kick in English class also and was not reprimanded for it. Just imagine what happens out side of the classroom. I am still waiting, 5 years later, for the year 7 well being officer of the high school to call me! My daughter is currently in Year 12 having been home educated since the day after that day in year 7. She is doing extremely well now and is doing a traineeship that includes completing a certificate iii of business.

My youngest (twin boys) were in grade 2 when the final of many incidents happened to their sister. They did not return to mainstream for term 2 of year 2 either and have been home educated ever since. They are thriving. Children need above all things to feel safe, before they can be open to learning of any kind. I believe the provisional registration SHOULD NOT be removed from home education registration for that reason. We follow our children's interests, we follow rabbit holes, I follow Julie Bogart's concept of planning from behind, we learn together as a family, we work at our irlen syndrome children's level to help their reading skills in a way that they are not compared to a peer by generic testing, we promote self-esteem, self-worth and a love of learning. We work beyond what would be considered 'peer level' in other areas. We take breaks when migraines (including vomiting) hit - one twin son would regularly be sent home from mainstream school and not allowed to return until 24 hrs after vomiting - even though it was connected to his migraine and he spent a lot of time curled up in a bean bag to avoid the fluorescent lights in the classroom that were supposed to be turned off as part of his "learning environment changes" for the school to manage his irlen symptoms. At home we use natural light, the migraines are much less frequent due to this.

My other twin son who has an overactive bladder can go to the toilet whenever he needs to without being belittled by the teacher (and sniggers from peers) for his "need" to go again so close to having previously been. He gave up asking the mainstream teacher and would urinate in his clothes and came home from mainstream school smelling of urine every single day. Many home educated students require flexibility in their learning plan, some don't have medical or mental health needs that require flexibility, but thrive because of the flexibility of following their own interests. This

creates a lifelong love of learning. It incorporates learning as a normal part of life, not a separate thing they do. Forcing the following of the Australian Curriculum, as it is now or with any future changes to the Australian Curriculum, is never going to be an effective way for home educated students to learn, simply because the Australian Curriculum is designed for classrooms, it's designed for assessments to prove rote learning ability and fact memorisation and for comparing children to a set benchmark. Home educated children have dedicated, highly involved parents who create high quality personalised, exclusive learning plans, which are able to be adapted immediately to meet the child's changing needs. We can move on to a higher level once a skill is mastered, rather than being stuck finishing set in stone content. If the government wishes to support home educating children, I suggest they should provide dollar for dollar the same funding to the home educating child's parents that they provide to a mainstream school for each bum in a seat. Lastly, one thing I agree with in the proposal is adjusting the age children can remain registered with the Home Education Unit to 18 years of age. This will allow those home educated students who have not moved into further studies or employment to be still officially in a registered learning facility until the end of Year 12. Giving them a sense of belonging and a sense of achieving the completion of Year 12.

Kind regards, A dedicated mother, wife and home educating parent, with a First Class Honours Bachelor of Photography degree Majoring in Photojournalism and Social Documentary (who was about to apply for a PhD just as the bullying of my daughter thrust us into home education - I made the best decision and focused on our home education and didn't finish my PhD application), 2 x Tafe diplomas - one in child care and education, 2 X Tafe certificate iii's - both in child care and education - centre based care and school aged care.