

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members, I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed changes to home education requirements in Queensland, particularly the shift towards mandating adherence to the Australian National Curriculum. It is evident that there is a profound disconnect between the drafting of this legislation and the desires and needs of homeschooling families. As a homeschooling parent, we believe our primary obligation is to provide our child with a flexible education that meets their individual needs and interests, while ensuring they are receiving a broad, high quality education that exceeds that of traditional school. Flexibility is at the core of why many of us choose to educate our children at home. While some families may choose to follow the Australian National Curriculum, others, like ours, value the freedom to tailor our children's education based on their individual interests, passions and ability. The imposition of rigid regulations and standardised requirements would only serve to stifle the flexibility that are the hallmarks of homeschooling. It is essential to recognise that homeschooling families do not seek to replicate the traditional school system at home. Rather, we embrace the opportunity to provide a personalised, holistic education that aligns with our children's unique needs, interests, and learning styles. By following their own learning interests and setting goals tailored to their personal futures, homeschooled children are empowered to take ownership of their education and chart a course that aligns with their unique talents and ambitions. This approach fosters a love of learning, while encouraging critical thinking and creativity. This type of flexible child directed learning will only be restricted by the imposition of rigid adherence to a standardised curriculum. Forcing children to learn specific content regardless of their interests and abilities can be counterproductive and may not effectively engage them in the learning process. While I appreciate the intent behind ensuring educational standards, I believe it is crucial to recognise and respect the diverse approaches to education that exist within the homeschooling community, and application of diverse teaching tools that are now available via the internet. Mandating adherence to the Australian National Curriculum overlooks the rich and varied educational experiences that homeschooling families provide for their children. Before enacting further governance on homeschooling policies, I urge the committee to listen and learn from those directly involved in homeschooling—the parents, educators, and students who are forging this path. Their experiences and insights are invaluable in shaping policies that truly support the diverse needs of children and promote educational excellence. I urge the committee to reconsider the rigid imposition of the Australian Curriculum and uphold the educational freedom of homeschooling families by allowing them the flexibility to choose the educational approach that best meets the needs of their children.