

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1568
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Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent education legislation changes that have been proposed in our state. As a constituent and a member of the community, I believe it is crucial to voice my objections to the potential impact of these changes on our education system.

My name is Dan Bain, I am primary producer breeding and raising beef cattle regeneratively in remote southwest Queensland in which education is an integral part of. I have grown up being surrounded by people in the education sector with my grandfather being a principal for many years and an uncle who has pursued a career in teaching. My younger sister has also chosen a career as a teacher.

I have four children along with my wife Brooke Bain, two are under school age, and two of which are schooling at home. We are remote as mentioned and mainstream school is not an option. School by correspondence is our only option.

We started school at home through a DE school that had just implemented ACARA and it wasn't good for my wife, or our son who is a high achiever and puts a lot of pressure on himself to succeed. The workload in ACARA was bad for his mental health, far too great for his mind to comprehend, he had a lot of knowledge to comprehend in a short time which stifled any potential he had in his early years of school education.

My wife is also of similar nature to my son and puts high expectations on herself. When she was trying to teach using ACARA her mental health deteriorated dramatically. It was her and my son both crying about the schoolwork they were both required to achieve.

So instead of my son getting an education, I was living with my wife and my son who were both emotionally absent and were both losing all value to life.

So, we needed an alternative, we needed something where our child who his smart, could thrive and learn at his full potential. We needed an education where it could be tailored to the way he needs to learn, a way where his anxiety levels where not high and he could comprehend what he was being taught.

That's where HEU came in, here is a brilliant system where we could find the optimum educational material for our son where his mind was nurtured and for him to excel in his education. Our son went from crying everyday through school, to getting out of bed asking when school would start. Our son now is thriving at school, and he is learning.

I have my wife and son back thanks to HEU.

Education is a lot more than “school”, we are involved in a family business consisting of my parents and two brothers. We do a lot together; our children are a part of the business and quite regularly come with me and help with daily tasks of the business. There is a lot involved in running a business that can be tied back to their school education. Such as addition and subtraction of stock numbers, observation of the environment and how ecosystems work. Animal health and best management practices. Where and how our food is grown and social skills engaging with people much older than they are during business activities.

By using HEU, how it is now it, gives us the flexibility to treat our children’s education holistically, as stated above we can incorporate what they are learning in school with things that are happening in the real world. Drawing that connection between school and life skills, that I believe is so lost in our current mainstream education system.

One of the reasons so many parents have taken the way their children are educated into their own hands, is when covid hit and kids had to be taught at home parents were appalled over what their children hadn’t learnt in the mainstream school they were attending. If this proposed system had worked in mainstream school, I believe the home education wouldn’t be growing at such a fast rate and parents would quite happily send the kids to the mainstream school. My Sister, whom is on the frontline of education, a teacher in Queensland, has shared many times, how much ACARA is failing within schools, leading to many uneducated children. The high lack of staff, Teacher to student ratios, is also a major issue within the school system, adding to children’s lack of education in school.

You have a system in place with HEU that is working, and children are learning so why fix something that isn’t broke.

We are all uniquely made by design, so we have HEU which allows for children to learn the way they were created to learn. It takes the burden off the state teachers to tailor each child’s education to them, creating a means for a higher educated population.

I understand the need to measure something and building metrics around that to do so. And the system you have proposed makes your job of measuring easier, but the measurement is not an accurate depiction of where our children are academically, it is simply the wrong metric to measure. It is a test that makes all children fit into one box and cancels out our largest contributor to education creativity.

Where is the transparency and public consultation surrounding these changes. As a stakeholder in our education system, I believe it is imperative for the voices of educators, parents, students, and community members to be heard and considered in any decision-making process that impacts our ability to educate our children to the highest standard.

If you can't be transparent and consult the HUMAN BEINGS involved, then the parents can't make an informed decision and ultimately the children will suffer.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed education legislation and to prioritize the best interests of our rapidly growing and proactive home educating community. I implore you to advocate for a more inclusive and collaborative approach to policymaking that values input from all stakeholders and ensures the integrity and quality of our education system.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for considering my concerns. I look forward to your response on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Dan Bain