

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

**Submission No:** 1569  
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25<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Committee Secretary  
Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Subject: Concerns Regarding Draft Legislation on Homeschooling**

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the draft legislation on homeschooling currently under consideration. As a prospective homeschool educator deeply committed to fostering a nurturing and effective learning environment for future children, I find several aspects of the proposed legislation troubling.

One of the most concerning aspects of the draft legislation is its failure to address the underlying reasons behind the significant increase in homeschooling rates, which have surged by nearly 300%. Rather than acknowledging and understanding the motivations driving families to choose homeschooling, the legislation seems focused on imposing restrictive measures that threaten to undermine the autonomy of homeschooling parents and students.

It is imperative that policymakers recognise homeschooling as a legitimate educational choice that has gained popularity due to concerns with the current traditional schooling system. Families opt for homeschooling for various reasons, including dissatisfaction with the one-size-fits-all approach of the National Curriculum, safety concerns, bullying, or the desire for a more personalised and flexible learning environment.

Instead of attempting to stifle the growing trend of homeschooling, the government should undertake a comprehensive examination to understand the factors driving this movement. By addressing the root causes behind the surge in homeschooling rates, policymakers can develop solutions that improve the overall education system and provide support to families seeking alternative educational pathways.

One of the key issues with the draft legislation is the requirement for homeschooling families to strictly adhere to the National Curriculum. While the intention behind this may be to ensure educational quality, it overlooks the diverse learning needs and preferences of individual students. Parents, as primary stakeholders in their children's education, should

have the autonomy to select a curriculum that aligns with their child's unique interests, abilities, and learning style. The rigid structure of the National Curriculum, designed for conventional classroom settings, may not be conducive to the flexible and personalised approach that homeschooling offers.

Furthermore, the language used in the legislation raises concerns about who has the authority to determine what constitutes a "high-quality education" and what is in the best interests of the child. By placing this responsibility in the hands of unelected and far-removed officials, the legislation undermines the fundamental rights of parents to make informed decisions regarding their child's education.

If enacted in its newly drafted form, this legislation would not only infringe upon parental rights but also hinder the ability of homeschooling families to provide a tailored and enriching educational experience for their children. It is essential to recognise that homeschooling is a valid and valuable educational option that empowers families to take an active role in their children's learning journey.

Rather than imposing stringent regulations on homeschooling, I urge the government to engage in constructive dialogue with homeschooling families to address their concerns and ensure that any legislation enacted respects their autonomy and educational choices. Additionally, efforts should be directed towards improving the traditional school system to better meet the diverse needs of students and families, thereby reducing the need for homeschooling as an alternative.

Moreover, it's crucial to acknowledge that the current registration and reporting system for homeschooling is functioning effectively. There is no evident need for significant changes to this system, as it has proven to be efficient in monitoring and ensuring that homeschooling families meet the necessary requirements for providing a quality education to their children. Any unnecessary alterations to this system risk imposing undue burdens on homeschooling families without providing any tangible benefits in return. Therefore, it would be prudent for policymakers to focus their attention on addressing more pressing issues within the education system rather than disrupting a system that is already working well.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the provisions outlined in the draft legislation and work towards a solution that promotes educational freedom and empowers families to make decisions in the best interests of their children.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,