

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

**Submission No:** 1574  
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**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** See attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

Dear whom it may concern,

I am writing to you with my concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the education bill that has recently been presented to parliament. As a home educating parent, I do not support some of these changes that have been introduced and I am worried about the impact that they will have on my family and the homeschooling community.

I am particularly concerned about the lack of transparency with the changes to this bill. The large communities of homechooler have only just heard about the proposed changes through conversations at weekly social homeschool meetings and feel completely blindsided by the lack of information give to the public it seems it has been very limited who has received information and who hasn't.

- Qld has NO official state homeschooling association.

- The two people representing the people directly, Amanda Bartle and Patricia Fitzgerald, were actively excluded.

- Amanda and Patricia were well known to the EGPA review team and directors, and were actively excluded, as was mentioned in the briefing.

- I was not represented in the second round of consultation because of this. And because no one asked YOU who you wanted as a consultation representative in light of there being NO official association.

As a parent of a neurodivergent child, we have spent hundreds of hours consulting with numerous specialists and allied health experts to determine how to best educate our child. We have liaised tirelessly with his/her former school to try to implement these recommendations. Unfortunately, what my child required was just not able to be achieved by their school. My child learns best with a project-led learning style. This enables him/her/them to become deeply immersed in an area of interest and this will often cross at least 5 key learning areas. Adhering to the Australian Curriculum would render this impossible for my child, and to this date, has been the only learning style that he/she/they have engaged in.

Researching and facilitating home education takes a lot of time and energy, but we have decided to follow this path with our child because they just don't respond to the Australian Curriculum. As a parent, it would be substantially easier to just enroll my child into distance education but we have already discovered that this method of learning would be detrimental to my child and our family. Drawing on our experience with traditional schooling and learning methods, we would be unable to successfully follow the Australian Curriculum.

As a homeschooling family, we have tried using the Australian Curriculum to educate our child, both at school and at home. It just doesn't work for our child. To this date, we have

been fortunate to have the flexibility to choose how we provide a high-quality education for our child, and our once struggling and disengaged child is now thriving.

I'm concerned that the legislation has been introduced without proper consultation with current homeschooling families and I hope that you will take my feedback into consideration. For education to be inclusive of all students, I believe it is important to understand the reasoning behind the education decisions of the families who struggle the most to fit into mainstream education.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. It is my hope that, going forward, this legislation can suit the needs of all students across Queensland. I look forward to hearing your response about this important issue.

Sincerely,

Shontelle West

To whom this may concern,

I am writing to advise of my strong objection and concerns regarding changes of the current legislation in reference to home-schooling in QLD. As a constituent and a member of the community, I believe it is imperative to voice my apprehensions about the potential impact of these changes on our education system.

Currently those of us who are registered with Home Education Unit in QLD, already submit a curriculum plan and annual report, with evidence of our child/student's learning which must prove that our children/students are receiving quality education at home.

I feel I speak for many home-schooling parents and caregivers when I state, that many of us have chosen this path because the mainstream education system has either failed our children or simply has not been suitable for their learning and emotional needs.

My personal story is that of our two children whom are both home-schooled and loving learning at their own individual paces together. They spend time together learning side by side or apart there is no negative input from high schools. Our son has some health issues with his lupus he can get quite sick, however, Homeschooling allows him to still excelling at his education and learning because he is able learn at his own pace with no pressure or expectation to meet unrealistic targets of mainstream school set. He would miss a lot of school with a flare up and not be able to catch up causing him to fail year 8.

This is all because as his parents we are able to see first hand how unwell he is and gauge when he isn't well and adjust his schooling days as he has flare ups, he is allowed to rest, recover and days he is well he is able to catch up on all of his school work.

Had this new legislation been amended I would have had to wait to see if we are allowed to let children be home schooled. The implications that could have bared on my child's mental health would have been damaging waiting for all the diagnosing and tests that took over 8mths to run, the harassment, bullying, creating an anxious and nervous student that wouldn't fit in socially or academically. Failing and failing behind from

missing school. We avoided all that by homeschooling allowing him to rest and save his strength.

Our children never endured this so has avoided the depression sadness and self harm that I see every day in your school system by young teens daily that aren't able to be home-schooled due to home life parents work situations etc. To implement this legislation you will be forcing many families to send children back into a already over full system that is failing the young children.

How about doing something about this instead of rocking the boat of an area where us parents are already making enough sacrifice to help our children.

This new legislation would subject my children and other children with food allergies and disabilities into schools that would risk their health to the point that they will be bullied and Increase rates of increased depression, attempt suicide and even deaths in our qld schools.

Perhaps the time and funding would be better spent, investigating why the Australian curriculum, mainstream education is failing Australian students and what can be done to provide a quality education in a safe and nurturing environment where children enjoy learning.

I have genuine concerns about the lack of transparency and public consultation surrounding these changes. As a stakeholder in our education system, I believe it is of utmost importance for the voices of educators, parents, students and members of the community to be heard and considered in any decision-making process that impacts our schools.

With numerous styles of learning and numerous ways to deliver a quality education, implementing a one size fits all by changing the homeschooling laws and forcing the same curriculum that failed many homeschooling students in the past, is not the answer.

I'll conclude with this changing the bill won't help the pop corn pop any faster **Just like kernels of popcorn, we all POP at our own pace.** You will just burn then in the end.

Kind regards,

Shontelle West