

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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25 March 2024

Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Changes to Home Education

To the Queensland Parliament Committee on Education,

As a homeschooling parent, I firmly believe that these changes, as they stand, would undermine the very reasons why many families, including mine, have chosen homeschooling as the preferred mode of education for our children.

The benefit of homeschooling lies in the freedom it allows children to learn in a manner that aligns with their individual needs, interests, abilities, and learning styles.

I object to the inclusion of a guiding principle which removes my power as a mother to make the best choices for my child. No one knows what my child needs better than me.

I objects to the inclusion of the National curriculum as the definition of a high quality education. The National curriculum is not a suitable substitute for the carefully created, individualised education my child currently receives and needs to thrive.

After several years of struggling to fit the cookie-cutter public education system, my incredibly bright, mature daughter completely disengaged from learning. School became a place she dreaded, and a trigger for severe anxiety which lead to her sinking into depression. It became a matter of urgency, for her physical and mental well-being that we remove her from the situation immediately.

In light of our situation, I am also concerned about the removal of the 60 day provisional registration. Those who choose to pursue home based learning in response to their children mental and physical health needs are often doing so in high stress situations - with grave concerns for their children's well being. Parents and children in these cases need time to recover, attend to urgent health issues and take time to focus on their plan for learning. Please do not make it harder for parents who are choosing to invest their lives in their children's individual, holistic and meaningful learning journeys.

In essence, these proposed changes would not only undermine the fundamental principles of homeschooling but also limit my child's ability to learn and grow in a way that honors their individuality and creativity. As a homeschooling parent deeply invested in my children's education, I urge the committee to reconsider these restrictive measures and instead focus on supporting families in providing a rich and diverse educational experience tailored to the needs of each child.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Kindest regards,
