

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1577
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members, I am writing to express my vehement opposition to the proposed education legislation changes for Queensland. As a Queensland resident and homeschool parent I am extremely apprehensive and deeply concerned about the potential impact of these changes on our children and our education system. I have been homeschooling for eight years and I can assure you that being a 'homeschool mother' was NOT something I had always dreamed of or thought I would ever do. It was instead a choice that we made as a family because we simply felt there was no other option available to us - our child did not cope in the school environment and the curriculum simply wasn't compatible with his learning difficulties and needs. By grade three in the school environment my son's mental health had deteriorated so much that he was having panic attacks, meltdowns, night terrors, tics and digestive issues, he suffered from severe anxiety and he certainly was not learning in any capacity. After just six months of homeschooling, in a safe and supportive learning environment, with a curriculum that I tailored to his unique situation and learning requirements using an interest-led, project-led approach, he was a happy, content 9 year old boy. He is now 16 years old and has thrived in the homeschool environment. He is currently doing a Certificate III in Screen and Media, has won awards for his creative writing and is on his way to becoming a talented writer and filmmaker. Being forced to adhere to the Australian Curriculum would have rendered this result impossible for my child. I am degree qualified and prior to having children was in a very well paid, successful corporate job. I chose to give up pursuing that career because my children's wellbeing, safety, mental health and education for future success are my top priority. I spend many hours every week researching and writing educational programs for my children to ensure they are learning in a way that keeps them engaged and is tailored to their unique learning style. I receive NO support from the Government, financial or otherwise, to do this. These proposed changes to increase reporting and planning and to show progress in all ACARA learning areas seem to completely disregard the educational needs of our children. It will also be unmanageable for parents to meet these requirements. I would also like to add that I am very disturbed by the distinct lack of transparency and public consultation surrounding these changes. Why the attempt to push this through quickly without the voices of the homeschool community being heard? Shouldn't the best interests of our students, parents and community members be prioritised in any new legislation that impacts us? I implore you to advocate for a more inclusive and collaborative approach to policymaking that considers and values input from all stakeholders and ensures that the education and wellbeing of our children is not sacrificed in the push to 'standardise' and control. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I sincerely hope that you will consider my concerns. I look forward to your response and to further dialogue on this extremely important issue. With regards [REDACTED]