

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1581
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Submitter Comments:

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent education legislation changes that have been proposed in our state. As a constituent, a concerned former homeschooler (yr 11 &12), former homeschooling parent of two neurodivergent children and Aunt/great Aunt of a current homeschooler who is neurodivergent and a member of the community, I believe it is crucial to voice my apprehensions about the potential impact of these changes on our niece, other homeschooling students and the future Homeschooling community. The proposed legislation raises several pressing concerns that I believe need to be addressed. Firstly, parents already have access to the ACARA to be able to use it as a guide line as to what needs to be covered in the typical year level. The issue is that making the ACARA legislated that the child must at this age be at this year level does not typical work for those who are neurodivergent or have other learning barriers. As a former homeschooling parent I did use the ACARA as a guide, and I personally know that many other families do as well, but both my children would of never fitted into the neat box of the year levels as ACARA laid out. If you limit the vast resources available, just because they are not from the ACARA, it is very small minded in not taking advantage vast wealth of knowledge the world has to offer and limit the ability to teach to that individual child which is the main advantage and point of homeschooling. To teach our children, we needed to draw from a vast array of resources, so I could meet them at where they were and build from there (which was below the year level in some subjects and above in others, when we pulled our sons from school, one reason why traditional school was not working for them). We are teaching to individuals, we are not needing to do a broad sweep of education to a large number all at once and hope that each child gets something from it. Secondly, the reasons families are homeschooling are vast, from issues with education needs not being met by the current public school system and not being able to afford the private school system, children missing large portions of education in the mainstream due to medical issues and appointments and there being NO way of catching up - just being pushed through to the next year because they had aged (homeschooling allows a child to learn outside of the constraints of timeframes, and most importantly the level of violence and complete lack of safety that is growing in ALL schools.

Thirdly, the job of the government is to ensure the child has access to an education, not how that education is gained or how it is presented, that is and always should be at the parents responsibility. Stop trying to replace the role and responsibility of a parent with legislation. Stop trying to get others to raise our children, as history has shown us, when a government singles out a group, race or religion and take away their choices on how and where education should take place, can lead to many more tragedy's down the road that can take generations to heal from. My main concern is that the legislation has been introduced without proper consultation with current homeschooling families and I hope that you will take my feedback into consideration. In light of these concerns, I urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed education legislation and to prioritize the best interests of our students. 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, Kaylene Allen