

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1587
Submitted by: Lianda Gibson
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Submitter Comments:

I am a home educating parent of nine years living in Western Australia. Whilst I am not making a submission on behalf of an organisation, I have also worked for 20 in youth advocacy in a paid capacity, and volunteer for a home education not for profit in WA. I have a Masters degree in Human Rights Education from Curtin University. I have also worked for three education departments in the UK. I consider myself to have an extremely strong understanding of both the home educating community, the rights and wellbeing of young people and best practice community engagement and consultation. I will leave home-educators in Queensland who have read through the detail of the legislation to raise concerns about how it will impact them. My main concern that I want to raise with you is that you haven't done even close to the adequate amount of community consultation with the group that these legislative changes will impact the most. To make changes of this nature, you should have delivered: Multiple rounds of in person and online consultation with home educating parent/s and caregivers in all areas of Queensland including regional and remote areas Consultation that focused on the needs of specific groups, i.e. those with disabilities, young people with mental health concerns, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, families from refugee/migrant backgrounds and so on Consultation directly with children and young people themselves using appropriately trained facilitators, with a particular focus on young people on the margins, i.e. school can't or those with disabilities Allied health professionals (i.e., OTs, speech pathologists, physiotherapists, psychologist) etc. that work with home-educated children and young people This consultation should have been over multiple rounds. First before any legislation changes were drafted. Secondly, once changes had been drafted, and likely again once amendments had been made. Strong communication with this community should have been delivered throughout this process. As it stands, the community have been almost completely ignored and you now have a community of home-educating parents/caregivers, children/young people and their supporters who clearly feel blindsided and ignored. I urge the Queensland State Government to go back the beginning with the review as it impacts home-educating families and start again, following a proper and robust consultation process. If our WA Government should look to review our School Education Act to impact homeschoolers, we would be strongly urging them to follow the process outlined above.