

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

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. My primary concern being the requirement to adhere to the Australian Curriculum. Since embarking on our homeschooling journey, I have witnessed a remarkable transformation in my children's attitude towards education. The personalized learning approach we have adopted has reignited their passion for learning and instilled in them a newfound confidence in their abilities. Rather than merely memorizing facts and figures, they are actively engaged in exploring topics that spark their curiosity and pursuing knowledge in a way that resonates with them personally. It is worth noting that, upon initially examining the current Queensland curriculum, we found that it did not align with our educational philosophy. Within just two weeks of attempting to follow it, we realized that the high-quality learning experiences we could provide at home far surpassed what was being offered within the confines of a traditional curriculum. Through homeschooling, my children are not only acquiring academic knowledge but also developing essential life skills and values that are essential for success in the real world. They are learning how to think critically, communicate effectively, and adapt to new situations—all skills that will serve them well beyond the confines of a classroom. As an active participant in the homeschool community, we participate regularly in multiage learning co-ops and group activities. We regularly capitalise on instruction and lessons from other parents, community members and experts in their fields. Sometimes, this sparks interests and passions within our children and we are able to go away and deeply explore an area of interest. Enforcing the Australian Curriculum will severely limit this opportunistic learning and stifle the ability for us to form multi-age groups as the topics they will be investigating would be dictated according to their year level. The current Australian Curriculum does not allow for children to progress in different areas of learning at different rates, eg a child may have a grade 3 reading level but a Grade 1 maths level. It is also very teacher-led and does not encourage self-directed learning. Self-directed learning is incredibly important for a child's confidence, ability to retain the information learned and in their future lives. Those who can learn in a self-directed manner are at a far greater advantage when entering the workforce or tertiary education. Strict adherence to the curriculum also doesn't take into account the needs of individuals such as different learning styles or special needs. One of the great things about home schooling is that home educators can cater lessons and learning to each individual child at their skill level, maturity level and personality. In essence, these proposed changes would not only undermine the fundamental principles of homeschooling but also limit my children'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. 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.