

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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I am a parent of three children who have been homeschooling in Queensland for four years. Our educational journey has been a transformative experience rooted in the values of flexibility, autonomy, and personalized learning. Our decision to homeschool stemmed from the realization that the traditional school environment was not conducive to meeting the individualized needs of our children. While they excelled in certain areas, they struggled or lacked interest in others within the static, book-focused curriculum of their former school. Recognizing their innate curiosity and active learning styles, we embraced homeschooling as a means to provide a dynamic and purpose-driven educational experience tailored to their unique strengths and interests. I am concerned about the proposed changes to homeschooling in Qld. I am concerned about the lack of consultation with homeschooling families and their representatives in proposing these recommended changes.

Points of Rejection of the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024: Limitation of Individualized Learning - For children like mine, who thrive on individualized learning experiences tailored to their interests and needs, following a rigid national curriculum would stifle their growth and potential. Learning with an individualized program through HEU Queensland in the home and community has enabled my children to thrive and learn at a faster rate than they were at school. They are more regulated and focused when they get to self-pace their learning and explore topics of interest, rather than adhering to a predetermined curriculum. They have developed their creativity and problem solving capacity by learning in this way. By rejecting the recommendation to adopt a national curriculum, we uphold the value of personalized learning experiences that foster genuine engagement, a love of learning and deep understanding. Negative Impact of Increased Assessment and Reporting: I reject the recommendation for increased assessment and reporting as it creates anxiety and stress for my children. This emphasis on frequent testing and reporting was one of the reasons why the traditional school environment was not suitable for them. Rather than fostering a love for learning, it induced stress and promoted rote memorization over genuine comprehension. As homeschooling parents, we prioritize holistic growth and development, recognizing that true evaluation goes beyond standardized assessments to encompass the diverse abilities and talents of each child as a learner. These points underscore the importance of preserving the freedom, flexibility, and autonomy inherent in homeschooling, while advocating for policies and legislation that support diverse learning needs and foster genuine educational growth. Thank you for your consideration.