

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1605
Submitted by: Joanne Lee
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members, I am writing because I disagree with some of the proposed ideas in the Inquiry into Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. I have a Bachelor of Nursing, a Graduate Diploma of Midwifery, a Graduate Diploma of Learning & Teaching (Education), and I'm currently completing a Master of Education (Neuroscience). After 9 years of classroom teaching in a primary school and 7 years of university classroom teaching, I currently work at UniSC as an Associate Clinical Educator. My 12 year old nephew is homeschooled and has never attended mainstream school. He is an incredibly bright child, who is academically advanced in many areas. He has high emotional intelligence, and is very creative and imaginative. I object to the idea of homeschoolers being limited to only following the national curriculum. Being restricted in this way would severely limit my nephew's education. It would not allow him to study topics with the depth and detail that my sister and my brother-in-law currently provide him. The beauty of a homeschool education is that it is individualised to meet the exact learning needs and interests of each and every child. This was my ideal as a classroom teacher! It is what we teachers aim for in schools with 'differentiation'! Homeschool education does not need to look like school at home, so it does not need to follow the national curriculum. I object to the removal of the 60 days provisional registration for homeschool students. As a teacher, when a new student was transferred from another school into my classroom, I was not expected to have a year's plan for their educational goals and pathways immediately prepared on their first day of registration. It was expected that it would take some time for me to get to know how the student learns best, what their abilities and needs are, and for me to make assessments of how to best move them forward. And it is known that of course their learning would continue in the meantime. Parents of students moving from mainstream school into homeschooling also deserve this time. I also object to the lack of representative consultation with the homeschool community for this Inquiry. They are a committed, well-informed group of parents who should be listened to. At the moment, Qld has no official state homeschooling association. And yet the two people representing the people directly, Amanda Bartle and Patricia Fitzgerald, were actively excluded. Both Amanda and Patricia are well known to the EGPA review team and directors, and were actively excluded, as was mentioned in the Monday 18th March briefing. This must change. We must ensure that the needs of children/parents in our homeschooling community are listened to and valued as equally important as the needs of students/teachers in our school communities. I look forward to hearing that the Committee listens to the homeschool community and its advocates when moving forward with this Inquiry. Kind regards, Joanne Lee Associate Clinical Educator, UniSC