

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by: Lenita Woodsbey
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Submission to the Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 We have four children. The eldest graduated in 2023 with a string of Accolades and Awards including Mount Isa Young Citizen of the Year 2024. The next is currently in Grade 12 on a strong ATAR Pathway with 6 general subjects working towards a career in the health care industry. The third is in Grade 8 achieving academic excellence, and the fourth is Sport Captain in his final year of primary education. Although we have kept our children in school (State and Catholic), we are grateful to have teachers and principals willing to adjust how curriculum is met while staying true to our traditional and Christian Religious beliefs. Sometimes this has been difficult to achieve, but we got there. I choose to remain very informed as if we were delivering the education ourselves. It is still aggravating that so many things need my attention and requests for adjustment. There are programs that the school delivers outside of curriculum requirements that we do not participate in, and there is a great deal of learning, life and personal skills that we as parents guard as our rightful roll to deliver in our own timing and methods. I personally believe the Mount Isa schools are equipped with the people and resources to offer an excellent education... but... they do all receive a lot of emails from Mrs Woodsbey with requests for adjustments in meeting curriculum. If we didn't receive such support from our teachers and principals in this regard, we would have no qualms in moving to home-schooling. Having received our own education through a collection of school of the air, state school, private school and home school pathways, we have always viewed home-schooling as a valid option. And we can definitely see why so many people are taking this option. I fear the government is purposefully disregarding WHY many families are choosing home schooling options, and would rather legislate restrictions on this pathway than reflect on what is troubling so many families to move away from the state education system . The proposed changes do not reflect a simple desire to ensure education quality. The law puts responsibility for education on the parents. It is our role and responsibility as parents to provide for and meet the educational needs of our children in whatever way we deem most appropriate, engaging and wholistically beneficial, not just academically beneficial. Formal Education is important; however, many would argue that it has lost connection with workplace and societal needs in pursuit of academia. Practicality loses out against academic pursuit. Many families are choosing home schooling to balance education, work & life in a shared commitment to building strong relationships, promote emotional and mentally stability, connect practical applications to theoretical knowledge, maintain community well-being by contributing to local needs, engage with elders, and to build a good sense of self, of purpose and of personal drive. Schools have an obligation to assist in guiding and growing our youth into good and moral citizens. Yet, many of the text selections are not wholesome or morally guiding. The material often includes evil characters and stories. Studying evil affects all minds negatively but has particular effect on young minds. Evil has sinister intent. Evil does nothing to support guiding our youth into good, wholesome, and moral citizens. Senior QCAA English Text Selections come with a warning. Teachers should be aware that some texts on this list contain explicit strong language and/or content that may be of a sensitive nature for certain students and school contexts. Teachers are advised to consider this prior to introducing the text to students. No single text on the list is compulsory for schools to use. Why does the state education system insist on including texts in the curriculum that they know are unsuitable? Thankfully, the External exam text is generically suitable and has no warning. Quote from The Power of One (1992 film) "Any Question you ever have, the answer you will find in nature". Parents naturally wish for their children to grow and contribute to the world whilst

remaining grounded and committed to family. Formal education needs to be relatable, engaging, wholesome and morally guiding, presented in a way that promotes emotional and mental stability, all backed by the strength of the family unit. Anything that goes against the family unit, or tries to divide it is unwelcome. I would like to leave you with some Questions for the committee to reflect on; This may give you insight into WHY home schooling is increasingly chosen to meet the needs and educational desires of families. Is the state education system contributing to the youth mental health crisis? Are text selections wholesome and morally guiding? Are guidance councillors working directly and immediately with families as a unit, or just the child? Do Teachers overstep their responsibilities of care? Has the woke agenda contributed to the exodus from state education? Is the percentage of excellence in state education comparable to home schooling outcomes? Is the percentage of below standard achievement in state education comparable to home schooling outcomes? Is there record of students who were falling/left behind in state education, who then excelled in home schooling environment. What factors were behind these outcomes. What are the percentages of employed home schooled students vs state school students? What are the percentages of volunteering home schooled students vs state school students? Are restrictions on home schooling pathways necessary? Has information on WHY people are exiting the state school system been collected and reflected on? I look forward to following the outcomes from the Committee Sincerely Mrs Lenita Woodsbey Mount Isa