

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1617
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Submitter Comments:

Dear Di Farmer and other local MP's I am contacting you to voice my concern regarding the recent education proposed legislation changes in our state. As a committed member of the community, I believe it is imperative to voice my concerns with the potential impact on the education system. As a Father to a neurodivergent child, we have attempted to educate my son through the school system. The system failed him, the "one size fits all" approach that is practiced within Australian schools does not recognise or adapt to the needs of neurodiverse children, or act in their best interest. Due to this the children are left behind and causes much mental anguish and harm to their mental health. This was witnessed first hand via my son as he went through the school system 2019 - 2021. Within this legislation is various points of concerns I feel need to be addressed. The increased reporting requirements; Currently the information we provide already exceeds the reporting that is required by Education Queensland Teachers. To provide further information for every single subject is unreasonable. Including the provision to demonstrate educational progress for each subject also exceeds the requirements for schools & teachers in Queensland. During our time within the schooling system any reports we did receive from his teachers were a simple tick stating if he was below average, average or above average in each subject. This new legislation is proposing for us to provide more than what teachers are required to do and they are paid for their time. It is an unreasonable expectation to add this to the workload of what we are already doing by educating our children via homeschooling, by adding this extra requirement the workload will be substantially increased for no benefit to educating our children. The definition of a "high quality education" being limited to the Australian Curriculum is restrictive and will cause issue with being able to provide a high-quality education in the home learning environment for my children with neurodiverse needs. Being forced to conform and follow the very same process that failed my son will cause much mental anguish, increase his anxiety and affect his confidence within life and self love. Why should he be forced back into a system that does not benefit him and only causes issues? Researching & conducting home education takes a lot of time & energy, but our support network (My Child, My Wife & our allied health professionals) have all agreed that this path is in the best interest of my Son. Collectively we have decided to follow this path as he does not respond to the Australian Curriculum. As a busy parent it would be much easier to just throw my child into school and leave the matter at that, however we have already discovered that this method of education is detrimental to my son and his mental health & well being. Drawing on our experience with traditional schooling & learning methods, we would be unable to successfully follow the Australian Curriculum. As a homeschooling family, we have tried to use the Australian Curriculum to educate our child (Both at home & school). This system does not work. To date we have been fortunate enough to have the flexibility to choose how we provide high quality education to my son. With this freedom we have seen a transformation from a once struggling and disengaged child to a child who is flourishing and thriving both in education and mental health and well being. Additionally, I am concerned about the lack of transparency & public consultation surrounding these changes. As a stakeholder in our education system, I believe it is imperative for the voices of our educators, parents, students & community to be heard & considered in any decision making process that impacts the ability to educate our children to the highest standard. In the light of these concerns, I urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed education legislation & to prioritise the best interest of our rapidly growing and proactive home education community. I implore you to advocate for a more inclusive & collaborative approach to policymaking that values input from all stakeholders & ensures the integrity & quality of our education system. Thank for you for your

time in reading my letter & for considering my concerns. I look forward to your response regarding this matterKind Regards,Sai Christie Foxfire Industries Pty Ltd