

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1660
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Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I am writing regarding the proposed changes to Education legislation specifically in relation to Home Schooling in Queensland. As a constituent with family directly affected by these proposed changes, I am very concerned about how certain aspects of this will impact upon the educational outcomes and wellbeing of my nephews and others like them. I have seen directly the improvement in the education of my eldest nephew since commencing home schooling. He has developed a great love of learning and is further advanced in his education than many of his peers. There has also been a significant improvement in his emotional wellbeing which directly correlated with him moving from a school based to a home based environment. I believe this is because his parents have been able to tailor his education to his interests and effectively encourage exploration of new skills in an environment that is conducive to his learning. Chapter 5, Clause 68 Amendment of section 217 of the proposed amendments mandates adherence to the Australian curriculum. By mandating adherence to a standardised curriculum, the proposed legislation fails to acknowledge the diverse learning styles and needs of individual students, which is often the basis behind many families choosing to home school. Home schooling empowers parents and carers to tailor educational experiences that cater to the unique interests, strengths, and learning styles of each student and focus in areas relevant to their goals. There is real risk that mandating curriculum will result in adverse outcomes for these students, both in their educational development and wellbeing. The regulation around curriculum in senior years may also impact on the use of alternative pathways to access early university education in their preferred fields by restricted their study options. For these reasons I urge you to carefully consider the proposed education legislation and to prioritise what is in the best interests of the students affected. Please consider the reasoning behind family decisions to provide education in the home and the risks of negative impact on the learning outcomes of children who do not fit easily into the mainstream education model. Home schooling has shown real benefit in the educational outcomes of many children and it is imperative that the benefits of this model are not diminished by legislative change.