

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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25th March 2024

Dear Committee Members and Education Minister,

I am writing to you to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the Education Bill, specifically those relating to Home Education, which has recently been presented to parliament.

As a parent who both home educates one child and has another child in school system, I do not support some of these changes that have been introduced. I am worried about the impact that they will have on my family and the homeschooling community.

I am particularly concerned about the requirements that parents follow the Australian Curriculum. Homeschooling essentially allows me to ensure my child has the highest quality of 1:1 education. It allows me the freedom for me to educate, and for my child to learn, in a manner that aligns with their individual interest, abilities and learning styles. By imposing a mandated curriculum this would impede my child's autonomy and hinder their ability to learn in a way that suits their needs. Furthermore, it is my belief that the Australian Curriculum needs an overhaul as the current content is not providing our children with the highest possible education. The current curriculum is overcrowded and does not place enough importance on the basics and ensuring that children, especially in Primary years, are well educated in the basics. Therefore, why would I want my homeschooled child to be required to follow the current Australian Curriculum?

I originally chose to homeschool my child due to medical needs, however, seeing the quality of learning that they are doing has provided me with confidence in my decision to homeschool. I do not believe families should have to provide a reason why they choose to homeschool their child.

As previously stated, I have another child in the mainstream education system. This child often complains that they are not learning, that all they do is assessment and that their classroom is a chaotic environment. My concern is that my mainstream educated child is merely memorising information to regurgitate in an assessment. He does not question anything nor can I see the love of learning that my homeschooled child possesses. Additionally, I have reviewed learning material that my mainstream educated child was producing in Prep and Year 1 and I can confidently say that what my homeschooled child has done in these years far surpasses the content covered in mainstream school. I feel that these changes are trying to replicate the already broken systems that are currently seen within in Australian schools and I do not want these imposed on my homeschooled child or other homeschooling families.

Moreover, homeschooling allows my child the freedom to actively participate in the world around them, gaining practical experience and insight that simply cannot be replicated in a traditional school setting. Rather I feel the opposite to be true in traditional school settings. I have witnessed my mainstream schooled child be spoken to in a disgusting manner by school staff and fellow students. As a result of their experiences in school they have lost their confidence. On the other hand, my homeschooled child has the freedom to engage in real-world situations and interactions.


Rather than imposing stricter regulations, I urge the committee to prioritize understanding and addressing the root causes of homeschooling trends. This entails listening to and considering the feedback from homeschooling parents, who are directly impacted by these legislative changes. Their insights and experiences are invaluable in shaping effective policies that support the diverse needs of families while ensuring the well-being and educational success of children.

My final concern is with the removal of the provisional registration. I myself have considered removing my mainstream schooled child, due to severe bullying, and felt that the provisional registration was great as it would have allowed me the time to carefully consider what to do and what was best for my child. The removal of this will mean that many families will get to the point of desperation but have no time or ability to remove their children from the mainstream system to figure out the best course of action for their future.

I am worried about the lack of transparency and public consultation surrounding these changes. As a stakeholder in our education system, I believe it is imperative for the voices of educators, parents, students, and community members to be heard and considered in any decision-making process that impacts our children's education. I believe it is important to understand the reasoning behind the education decisions of the families who struggle the most to fit or disagree with the way mainstream education is undertaken.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. It is my hope that, going forward, this legislation can suit the needs of all students across Queensland. I look forward to hearing your response about this important issue.

Sincerely,

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