

## Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 1688  
**Submitted by:** Jessica Holmes  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee and Whom It May Concern, I am writing to you regarding the proposed education legislation that was introduced to the QLD parliament on 6TH March 2024. I am currently a registered home educating parent within NSW and am concerned that the changes the QLD government are proposing regarding the homeschooling sector will eventually affect other states also. I oppose the proposed changes to the education bill and am concerned that the Government is making decisions that are not in the best interest of our individual children, nor is the Government practising inclusion by proposing these changes. I am aware that many submissions are being made and many reasons being put forward in opposition to the proposed changes, so I do not plan on repeating what other concerned Australians have communicated. Instead, I would like to suggest some insight into HOW children learn and why amendments to current homeschooling guidelines would be drastic to both homeschooling children's education as well as their social and emotional wellbeing. I pulled my two children out of school after three years of attending a public school. Both had had their natural will to learn crushed by the schooling system which bribed the children with certificates, lollies, and small toy rewards in return for "learning." Their book work was an expression of pure boredom. They were not interested in what they were being taught and were only doing the bare minimum in hope for the impending bribery reward. The schooling system affected their moods, their physical health, their relationships with each other as well as their relationships with their father and me. We live rurally, so the days were long and travelling wasted time, money, and petrol. When I started homeschooling it took a while before my children's natural will to learn returned as it had been tarnished heavily. After a few months though, their spark, their innate and natural will to learn, returned. As I keep document of their progresses through photos and notes it amazes me how far they have excelled. Their moods and overall emotions are now well balanced, and they feel heard, supported, and loved at all times. They both love hands-on learning, and one child even likes to do traditional bookwork which is easily supported given the vast number of workbooks readily available both online and in store. Sometimes the interest in bookwork comes and goes which is supported by us switching to hands-on learning like learning fractions through cooking with measuring cups. We have a routine focus on Mathematics and English, but the rest of the subjects are explored naturally, through interest. Learning comes naturally to children when they are supported and encouraged whole heartedly to learn what they are interested in. Home education comes in many different forms and even at different times of the day. My 10year old son, for example, typed two emails today to another home-schooled boy who lives in Kenya. Through his emails we monitored and corrected grammar, spelling, and punctuation (English, Technology). We researched Kenya as well as each subject (Geography, Social Studies) that the other child told us about in his emails. All of this has occurred on a Sunday, because as home schoolers our learning never stops. My son is generally NOT interested in English OR Geography but because this was relevant to him right now, he eagerly learnt new things for many hours today, which is no different to most of our days. When my children are studying mathematics, I am beside them the whole time. There is no room for mistakes, for getting into a wrong habit with how to do an equation, as I am there to correct them and show them the right way immediately. We learn at their level so that they will have complete comprehension and understanding of each mathematical concept properly. There is no rush to push ahead as well as no need to feel as though they have fallen behind somehow. Many home schoolers follow different methods of teaching from a range of Educational Philosophers such as John Holt or Charlotte Mason. This is because there is clearly not a one-size-fits-all method to education. As I am sure you aware this is one of the reasons that the Education

Departments Australia-wide are failing many children and in many ways, emotionally, psychologically, and mentally. Homeschooling families are generally passionate about education and learning. They are also flexible and observant to how to best meet their child's educational needs. The opportunity to learn in many ways is what is so inclusive about the current model. To now try to implement a rigid reporting system as well as a necessity to follow the Australian Curriculum would damage the way that children eagerly learn at home. Childrens' natural will to learn and explore would once again be tarnished, as well as the relationships around them. As home educators we want our children to actually learn the information, which is provided by us to them, not to memorise it for a test, which is often then forgotten. Home Educators already have a full-time job teaching and providing for their children. Please don't have us take time away from our children in order to engage in a rigid reporting requirement. Please don't have us take time away from our children to program in line with a curriculum that does not support our children's way of learning or interests. The Australian Curriculum is not a suitable substitute for the carefully created individualised education our children currently receive. Our children need what we homeschooling families provide in order to thrive and be the best version of themselves. I would like to conclude with some "food for thought." My two cousins completed their home-schooling journey about five years ago. One is now at university doing a Medical Degree. The other is studying to become a Vet. Before starting to homeschool they were both being bullied at school. The only downside I can see to this, is the lack of financial assistance that was given to my Aunty to provide such a wonderful education and childhood. This rings true for and homeschooling families in general, nationwide. By homeschooling, the Government is saving an incredible amount of money yet homeschooling families do not receive any benefits for resources or interest-based classes to attend. Nevertheless, families still choose what is best for their children, regardless of the lack of Government support. If the Government would like to see any changes to homeschooling, it would be helpful to assist homeschooling families financially with some of the money that the Government save from these children not going to school. This money could be utilised for interest-based learning opportunities and classes as well as teaching tools and resources. Your Sincerely, Jessica Holmes