

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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25 March, 2024

Committee Secretary
Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Committee Secretary

I am writing to the Committee as I am a Home Educating Student. The decisions that you make will directly impact me on a daily basis.

Please do not make us do school at home by following the Australian Curriculum. School was the worst thing in my life. I did not enjoy sitting at a desk all day and having to follow exactly what the Teacher told me to do. I had some great ideas that I wanted to try but everyone in my class had to do the same thing. I found this really boring and I did not enjoy learning. And then we even had to do more work (homework) when we got home from school. It was just too overwhelming and tiring. And my whole life was about completing what the Teacher said I had to, no discussion. I was even forced to do a test when I desperately needed to go to the toilet. It hurt and I could not concentrate properly.

On my first day of Prep at my local state school a student in my class hit me in the face. And then the next day that same student spat in my face. It was definitely not fun. And it did not get any better. The same student would keep trying to be my friend but then kept physically hurting me - scratching my arms and elbowing me in the tummy when the Teachers were not watching. It was so confusing and it just made me feel sick and so very upset. My Mum helped me and had meetings with the school but the bullying just kept happening. I also had a different student in my class put their hands around my neck. I just did not want to be there.

I always tried to do my best in class but there were even big behaviour charts in the classroom and if you accidentally did something wrong (like put your adjustable crayon out too far) you had to go up in front of the class and move your name/photo to the bad side - it made me cry.

And I remember, during a class lesson in Year One I had a student climb on my back and scratch me with their fingernails. The Teacher had to physically remove the student off my back. And then for some reason the Teacher got in trouble too. School was not a safe place for me to be and I did not want to go any more.

So we started home educating (homeschooling), the best decision ever. Since starting homeschooling I am much happier and I feel like myself again. I can pursue my own interests, like geology. I love going to different places like creek beds and finding different types of rocks. I have a special book that helps me identify the different rocks. I also love sharing this passion and teaching my homeschool friends about geology. They also help me learn about it too. It is amazing because there are friends and parents in my homeschool group who are very knowledgeable about a variety of different topics. Going to homeschool groups with my friends is so much fun and it allows me to be free and learn away from a desk.

I love reading big novels and enjoy doing this every day. I get to pick the books that interest me and read them whenever I want. I also absolutely adore arts and crafts and I am always creating some kind of project: painting, drawing, designing, cardboard building, crocheting, sewing and the list goes on. My Granny is helping me learn to knit too. And my Grandad helps me with painting. And making slime, I love slime. I research recipes and find household items I can use; I experiment and make my own slimes. There are so many projects I could tell you about! I love learning this way and I love learning again now.

Please think carefully about what is in the new Education Bill. If I had to follow the Australian Curriculum again I would not enjoy learning like I am now. I have tried it and it just does not work for me and especially not at home with my family. I also may not have enough time to see my homeschool friends or go out into the community. And I would be devastated if this happened.

Thank you for reading my letter.

Yours faithfully



Home Educating Student