

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

**Submission No:** 1698  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members, My strong opposition to the proposed changes to the homeschooling legislation, particularly the requirement to follow a particular curriculum, is expressed in this letter. I am referring specifically to clauses 18, 64, and 68. As a homeschooling parent, I believe that these changes would undermine the freedom and flexibility that homeschooling offers families. Imposing a standardised curriculum fails to recognise the diverse interests and talents of homeschooling students. Each child is unique and may thrive in different subject areas or learning environments. By enforcing rigid educational requirements, we risk depriving our children of the opportunity to pursue their passions and develop their full potential. Additionally, if there are learning challenges an enforced curriculum does not allow for supported and paced learning. My son is neurodiverse and is developmentally delayed, he has been in school and Distance Education, but both were not suitable. I can vouch for the inaccuracy of the saying "one size fits all." Enforcing ACARA creates a volume of content that is overwhelming and arbitrary, making it difficult for parents who are supporting neurodiverse children. As a homeschool parent of a nearly 13-year-old son, I have made this decision with the intention to provide him with the individualised support he needs to learn in the way he learns. Now that he is in homeschool, we have been able to access support like occupational therapists who are assisting him in developing the skills to one day be independent. In school, teachers can't be expected to individualise and support students the way that I can as a parent.

The reference to 'high quality education' in the legislation is unhelpful and presents a challenge in terms of definition. It is a vague and subjective benchmark that is difficult to measure. Simply following the Australian Curriculum does not guarantee a high-quality education. The real key to effective education lies in the delivery of a responsive, needs-based, and interest-driven approach that meets the unique needs of each child. My son has finally received high quality education under my care, his experience in school was anxiety producing, stressful for the teachers and staff at the school. I am also concerned that this bill has been formed without representative consultation regarding changes to home education in QLD. I would like to note that Queensland has no official homeschooling association, and the homeschool community has had extremely limited representation in the consultation process relating to this bill. The two individuals representing 'the people' directly, Amanda Bartle and Patricia Fitzgerald, were actively excluded from the second round of consultation. This has resulted in my voice not being heard. I am very disappointed that the consultation has been so limited and would like to see a true consultation where we as home schoolers are consulted and asked what we think. Home educating parents currently meet a standard that involves setting annual work plans and providing an annual report. I would appreciate any evidence your department has that suggests this existing system is not leading to a high-quality education for home-educated children and that changing it will lead to better outcomes. My plans demonstrate the high-quality education that is personalised and supportive for the best outcomes for my son. Promoting a supportive and collaborative approach to regulation leads to better and increased compliance, resulting in a positive experience for both home-educating families and regulators. Thank you for considering my concerns. Sincerely, Current Homeschooling Parent