

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

**Submission No:** 1728  
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**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** See attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

Dear Committee,

I have the objections to the proposals in the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Bill 2024.

A) The amendments to the guiding principles (section 7) stating that the decision to home school should be “in the best interest of the child” is vague and does not indicate who will be making the decision and what criteria will be used. I believe that the decision of the method of education for a child should be with the parent/s or guardian of the child and not the government. That it is a fundamental right and responsibility of the parent/s or guardian and not the government. It should remain as a legitimate and legal choice which cannot be revoked by a government official. The government should not be able to overrule parent/s or guardian in this matter. The Guiding Principles should empower and not restrict the parent/s guardian to make a choice of the mode of education. Also, could a school or the Education Department provide, on demand, the documentation that their choice of education for a child is “in the best interest of the child”.

B) The National Curriculum should not be used to limit the choices the parent/s guardian have to educate their child. Whatever the strengths of the National Curriculum are it is impossible for it to cover the full range of what the parent/s or guardian may consider is important for their child taking in the full range of cultural, ethic, religious and other considerations. If this limitation is required will the Queensland Government provide the necessary expertise, in a timely manner, to those who may choose the assistance so that this requirement can be easily achieved by those who do choose to homeschool. Surely it is the responsibly of the government to fund the required assistance if it is a requirement of the Act.

C) The removal of the provisional registration without a provision of 60 days to write a plan is unreasonable. If the government requires a plan to be written, it should provide, if required by the parent/s, the expert advice required to meet this requirement and of course within the required time frames of the government.

D) The level of reporting required for each child under the amendments is likely to drastically increase. Has this been taken into consideration by the committee and the benefits weighted against the time that may be taken away from the actual supervision of learning. The parent/s or guardian just want to get on with their supervision of their child/ren’s education. Even teachers complain at the amount of paperwork that is required and how this negatively impacts their ability to teach. Is the school providing documents to demonstrate the education progress in all areas that are written in the plan for each child in the same detail?

My father was a teacher, I have siblings that are teachers and there are teachers in my family. Personally, I have been involved in the education of children for over 40 years. In that time, I have seen the strengths and weaknesses of the state education system, the private education system and of the home school system. The government needs to be choosing to empower those who are involved in education and not be restricting them. Some of these proposals seem uninformed, based more on a need to control rather than empower those who have made a choice to take on the enormous responsibility for the success of their child. Please take into consideration their concerns and build good relationships with the home schoolers

demonstrating your support. Maybe the Qld government could provide some of the funding that it receives from the Federal government on a per student basis to the parents and guardians who ARE DOING the actual education of the child/ren.