

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

**Submission No:** 1732  
**Submitted by:** Christine Millmore  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** See attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you to express my concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the education bill that has recently been presented to parliament. As a home educating parent, I do not support many of these changes that have been introduced and I am worried about the impact that they will have on my family and the homeschooling community.

I am a proud home educating mother. I have always home schooled as I believe it to be my right to educate my children as stated in the education act. My children have never attended school other than to work in a voluntary role. I have successfully transitioned my two oldest children onto higher education and into the workforce. One has completed a Bachelor of Health Science graduating in 2023 having never sat a standardised test. They never attained an ATAR but were accepted into a Bachelor degree after completing 4 university courses. The second child did not go onto university but chose to do a traineeship in Business Administration through a well know company. After completing this certificate, they were made a senior member with the pay rise to match at only 18 years of age! I believe home schooling gave them both the ability to communicate with people of all ages, develop leadership skills which in turn, gave them an excellent work ethic that is highly valued by their relative employers. And they achieved all this without following the Australian National Curriculum.

Therefore, I am particularly concerned about who determines the 'best interest of the child'. The reasons I homeschool may not be understood by many in the public, but I believe that it is an inalienable right of all parents to choose who educates their children. Many choose to enrol their children in public or private institutions however home education is a legal choice, and parents do not usually choose it lightly. For many years I toyed with the idea of home schooling and after examining myself (did I have the skill and ability?), my reasons were justifiable. I believe I knew and know my children better than any educator or school, so I took the plunge and would not have it any other way. So, I ask again, who determines the best interest of the child? The parent? The schools? The government? And how this will be implemented and in what way? My children have had a structured educational program designed to suit *their* learning needs, abilities and interest. I do not think that the Australian National Curriculum will add to their education.

Also, questions need to be asked as to why many people are taking their children out of mainstream school and home educating them. Why has there been an increase in home education over the last 4-5 years? Is the school system failing?

I'm concerned that the legislation has been introduced without proper consultation with current homeschooling families and I hope that you will take my feedback into consideration. For education to be inclusive of all students, I believe it is important to understand the reasoning behind the education decisions of families.

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,

Christine Millmore