

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1750
Submitted by: Ruth Spence
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Submitter Comments:

Dear committee members Firstly I would like to start by saying I strongly oppose the proposed changes to home education in Queensland. My points of major concern with the amendments are the requirement to follow the Australian curriculum, the extra reporting requirements and the requirement for me to justify to the government what is in my child's best interests in order to be able to homeschool. My first concern regarding the Australian curriculum is due to the fact I find the curriculum is over crowded and is a one size fits all approach. I've also studied education and it takes 4 years to learn to teach the curriculum for teachers yet you are expecting parents to teach it without any training? One of the great benefits of home education is that it is tailored to the individual child and family and I don't feel the national curriculum allows time for this. I feel forcing families to follow a curriculum that 80% of families already have chosen not to is taking away from the best interests of the child which is for families and parents to follow the child's lead. My second point of concern regarding the extra reporting requirements is one of practicality. I worked in child care before having children and watched as the department introduced more and more reporting requirements. The intention was for staff to be given non contact time however the reality is staff had to complete endless paperwork instead of spending their time focusing on the children. I'm a home education family there is no relief staff to cover me while I spend hours reporting on 8 curriculum areas. This time is time I could be spending focusing on teaching my children. The home education unit doesn't currently have the time or resources to review these reports as they struggle to get through the current workload. I think this is a poor use of government time and funds. My final concern is the requirement for parents to prove to the government that home education is in the best interests of the child. This is absolutely ridiculous. The government has a vested interest in children being in state schools as this gives more federal government funding so how can they deem what is in my child's best interests when they have a biased view. Parents who send their children to state or private schools are not required to prove this is in the child's best interests I think it is so wrong that we as home educating parents are required to when we already submit reports showing our children progressing. We are a home educating family of 6. We are in our early years of home education. We made the decision to home educate because after completing practicals in the education system I noticed young children were losing their love of learning. I started meeting home educated children who still had a thirst for learning and then began researching. Everything I found supported a child being encouraged to initiate their own learning and follow their interests. I then watched with my own children as they grew in the first few years of life and learnt through exploration and play. I realised that play was an incredible way to learn and wanted this to continue as my children grew up. We are loving home educating and spending the time as a family learning together. We do not follow the curriculum we follow our daughters interests and she is learning just as fast as her peers who do follow the curriculum in schools and in some cases faster! She doesn't have the stress of being forced into learning because it is all child led. I hope you listen to your constituents and the hundreds of home educators who oppose these amendments. After all it us who have the experience in this area not an education system that many of us are trying to avoid. Kind Regards Ruth Spence