

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Objection - proposed changes to homeschooling legislation
Date: Sunday, 24 March 2024 7:34:55 PM

To the EETSC,

I am writing to share that I greatly object to the proposed changes to Queensland's homeschooling regulations.

I hold a number of concerns in regards to this legislation, and ask that my objections, and those of many others, be considered at this time.

I am disappointed to know that, as a homeschooling family, we have not been considered, included - or even simply advised - of these major changes! I feel that the lack of consultation with homeschooling representatives is a massive oversight, at the very least, and disrespectful to our community.

I am a homeschooling parent of an 8 year old and a 3 year old. My goal is to provide them a beautiful, valuable, deep and thorough, quality education.

My 8 year old son would be considered 'gifted'. The traditional school classroom was never going to be able to cater to his specific academic needs. He would have completed the work given in mere minutes, and been very under-challenged. For this, and many other reasons, we as a family have chosen to homeschool.

Allow me to share just a couple of my major concerns, knowing that these are just the highlights of many other issues that arise for us should this legislation go through:

1. The Australian curriculum is not even close to rigorous enough for our family. It is basic, and only covers topics at a very surface level. We currently utilise a large number of Australian curriculum resources, but must always heavily supplement with additional materials to aid our learning. There is simply too broad of a scope, and it is aimed at a classroom - where learning time is so limited. In our home, our learning time is uninterrupted, and we have the time to dive into more quality resources than just the surface level material that links to the Australian curriculum.
2. The removal of provisional registration is a major issue for so many families. Unfortunately, we have family members and friends who have had to remove their children from school with immediate effect due to mental health concerns, bullying, assault by a member of teaching staff, and abuse by another student. Whilst this is not our story, I hold grave concerns for the rights of parents to protect their children AT ANY COST. As a parent, I would NEVER leave my child in an unsafe environment, and it is a disgrace to believe any member of government would consider this to be appropriate.
3. The removal of school 'choice' in providing my children with a quality education. As a family, we have followed every guideline required by this government in our registration and planning processes for homeschooling. These proposed changes would add so much additional busy work for myself as an educating parent, and for my children who have far surpassed the year level benchmarks. The school classroom does not suit many children - hence our choice to educate freely at home. I have submitted education plans 7 weeks ago now, and am yet to receive any response. I do not rely on this feedback - we continue learning all year round regardless. However, the difficulties contacting the HEU, the delayed timeframes for processing of registrations and yearly reports, and the lack of any actual feedback, guidance, or consultation is so concerning. How would legislation forcing parents to create much more detailed reports ever be beneficial for the HEU?
4. The overstep of this government in expecting parents (who are already providing a fantastic education for their children) to provide the government with any further information is unnecessary, and likely to result in families removing themselves from this system completely. Home educating is a choice.

As a family, we have sacrificed a second income, all child-free time, thousands of dollars in materials and curriculum, hours and hours of time in preparation, planning and educating. I ask this government for nothing. I complete each report and plan, as requested. I provide my children with a fantastic, delightful, quality education. I deserve a say in these legislative changes. I deserve the right to vote against these changes. And I deserve the respect of our government for the education I am offering in my home.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my thoughts. Whilst greatly disappointed with the lack of respect shown in this process towards the homeschooling community as a whole, I appreciate the chance to share some concerns.

Lauren McGraw
Homeschooling parent



Please do not publically publish my contact details.