

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

**Submission No:** 1833  
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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Education law changes  
**Date:** Sunday, 24 March 2024 7:47:28 PM

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Attn: Committee Secretary  
Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000

Date: 24/03/2024

Dear Secretary,

I am writing to you with my concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the education bill that has recently been presented to parliament. As a home educating parent, supporting my wife in educating our children, I do not support these changes that have been introduced. These changes will adversely affect not only our family, but the wider community. As part of a key stakeholder group who is impacted by this, I ask that you please listen to our concerns.

#### Mainstream school experience

Our children commenced their education in mainstream schooling. It wasn't long into Prep before we started to see that our eldest was struggling to cope with the demands of the curriculum and education environment. We persisted for another 2 years, assuming he would adjust with maturity, however by this point there was evidence of major anxiety. At this point we had another child in Prep (who began when she was 4), and witnessed the pressure put on these young children to grasp concepts they developmentally were not ready for.

#### Home education experience

After six months of home education, we began to see the positive improvements in our children. My wife submitted their education plan to the Home Education Unit, detailing which curriculum we were using, resources and assessment tools. We were able to tailor the curriculum to their academic level (not their "age" or "grade" as per ACARA – it was necessary to fill the gaps in their education that had been created from mainstream school and had the liberty to spend more time on difficult topics). We were also able to utilize various styles of curriculum, often from international sources, that best suited our children's style of learning and current interests. We observed how this increased their level of engagement and ignited within them a personal interest in learning. We were also able to do this collaboratively as a family but also within our homeschool co-op. Even though the children were various ages, they would all engage in the topic, learning from each other and completing differentiated tasks according to their individual level. If they were to follow ACARA, this would not be possible as each year level is prescribed which topic they are to learn, often different to the other year levels.

Our children are thriving in home education. This has been documented when my wife submits the education report to the Home Education Unit. Samples of their work showing their improvements and progress is demonstrated. There has not only been academic improvements, but our children are more settled, confident and stable emotionally.

*Governments protection of children*

I am also concerned regarding an amendment in the bill, that states that home education registration will be granted if it is in the best interest of the child. Who determines what is in the best interest of a child? Surely as our children's father and mother who raise them and know them best, are most qualified and are the ones responsible for making decisions pertaining to them, including their education? I note there have been articles of late of cults or neglectful parents withholding education from their children. Such parents are unlikely to register their children in the first place. Just like any other facet of society, there are minorities who willfully disregard fundamental human rights and these children do need protection. However this should be handled by child services and does not fall within the domain of the home education unit. They are not equipped or qualified to deal with such complex social situations. And rather than penalizing home educating parents who ARE sacrificing so much for the best interests of their children, instead the laws around child services need reviewing.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. I hope that in making your decisions, you reflect on children such a mine who are thriving with the existing arrangement and would be directly negatively impacted by the changes proposed.

Sincerely,  
Daniel Moller

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