

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

**Submission No:** 1836  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Submission Regarding Proposed Legislation Changes to Homeschooling  
**Date:** Sunday, 24 March 2024 7:52:34 PM

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Dear Committee Secretary,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed amendments to homeschooling regulations as outlined in the recent legislative draft. The implications of these changes, notably the mandate to adhere strictly to the National Curriculum and the revised oversight on educational quality and child wellbeing, represent a significant shift away from the principles of parental autonomy and personalised education that are central to the ethos of homeschooling.

The requirement for homeschooling families to exclusively utilise the National Curriculum and to report on all subject areas poses a restrictive framework that may not cater to the individualised learning needs of each child. The National Curriculum, while comprehensive, is inherently designed for a standard classroom setting, accommodating a broad spectrum of learners en masse, which starkly contrasts the bespoke, adaptable nature of homeschooling that many families cherish.

The specific wording within the proposed legislation, especially under chapter 9, part 5, raises questions about the potential for overreach. The stipulation that home education must serve the "best interests of the child or young person" while ensuring their "safety and wellbeing" and a "high-quality education" is subjective and could lead to unwarranted intrusion into the autonomy of homeschooling families by government authorities.

At the heart of my concerns is the potential erosion of parental rights to make informed educational choices for their children. The prospect of shifting the responsibility of determining what is in the "best interest" of children from parents to government officials is troubling. Such a move not only undermines the parental role but also signals a broader trend towards centralised control over family decisions, which is antithetical to the principles of freedom and individual choice.

It is important to highlight that the existing framework for homeschooling registration and reporting has proven effective, as evidenced by the substantial growth in the homeschooling community in Queensland, with an almost 300% increase in the last five years. This surge underscores a broader dissatisfaction with the conventional school system and reflects a deliberate move by numerous families towards a more personalised, flexible approach to education.

Recommendations:

**Flexibility in Curriculum Choice:** Allow for greater flexibility in curriculum choice to accommodate the diverse needs of home-educated students.

**Parental Oversight:** Preserve parental rights to oversee their children's education, ensuring decisions are made in the child's best interests without undue government interference.

**Review of Current School Systems:** Conduct a comprehensive review of the existing school system to address the underlying reasons for the significant increase in homeschooling, rather than imposing stricter regulations on homeschool families.

In conclusion, while the intention behind ensuring a high-quality education for all children is commendable, the proposed legislative changes risk infringing upon the rights of parents to make educational decisions for their children. It is imperative that any modifications to homeschooling regulations be approached with careful consideration of the values of autonomy, personalised learning, and parental rights.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission. I urge the Committee to reconsider these proposed changes in light of the concerns raised by myself and many others within the homeschooling community.

Yours sincerely,



I formally request that all my personal details, including my name and contact information, be redacted from this submission. Thank you for understanding and respecting my request for privacy.