

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: EGPA Bill 2024 Submissions - Homeschooling/Home Education
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To the Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee,

I am writing to object to the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Bill 2024 in the current form. I have specific concerns with the implications of Clauses 18, 64 & 68 and I am in support of the Free2homeschool Movement.

I am a home educator in the UK but have connections with Patricia Fitzgerald and the home schooling community in Queensland as we often collaborate in providing educational resources for our children collectively.

One of the primary reasons for making the choice to home educate all over the world is to be able to follow the child's lead in what they are interested in learning and where their strengths lie as National Curriculums are restrictive and do not suit all learners and have already failed many of these children.

Some homeschoolers need extra parental support and more time to flourish academically than a school timetable would allow, whilst others are gifted and would need more than what the Australian Curriculum could offer. Both cohorts would be at a disadvantage of having to make progress and achieve outcomes in all subject areas at a prescribed time if adhering to the AC.

The benefit of home schooling is to provide a bespoke education for the individual child, where educating does not have to replicate school. This nurtured form of education is essential, particularly to those who have suffered school trauma due to school not being suitable for their specific needs.

The proposals in the Bill will also mean there will more admin and paperwork expected from parents in the form of reporting, meaning valuable time usually spent educating their children will be lost, leading to a negative impact on educational provision.

The amount of stress that both parents and children will be under as they will be forced to fit in a system unsuitable for them doesn't bare thinking about.

With only 20% of the homeschool community currently using the Australia Curriculum and 80% not it is clearly neither wanted nor needed by the majority.

There has clearly been no representation sought after from Queensland homeschooling families. It would, in fact, appear they have been actively excluded during this Bill's progression. Stakeholders need to have their say regardless as to whether there is an official body or organisation to represent them.

Considerations need to be made as to the reasons why families have chosen to homeschool; dissatisfaction with the traditional school system, religious beliefs, or the need for a more flexible approach to education. This Bill will undermine families' right to home educate in a way that suits their children.

Homeschooling parents are deeply invested in providing the best educational experiences for their children as they have taken on that responsibility by opting out of school. If this Bill makes it through it will discriminate against the diversity of the homeschooling community and have a direct impact on restricting parents in their freedom of choice when it comes to educating their children.

Many policy decisions are made on biased views, so policymakers within the Education Department need to be engaging with the home schooling community, to see what home education really looks like and how successful alternative provision can be.

Implementing a restricted way of learning will have a detrimental effect on thousands of children across the state so I urge committee to reconsider this Bill and the proposed amendments and listen to homeschoolers.

Kind regards,
Jodie Coles

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