

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Submission to the Committee regarding proposed changes to Education Act
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Dear Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee members,

I am writing to express my consternation at the recent education legislation changes proposed in Queensland. As a permanent resident and a member of the community. I am called to communicate my concern on the potential impact of these changes on our education system.

I am a homeschooling mother and actively engaged in my children's education. We are a secular family and belong to a wider diverse homeschooling co-operative that is an intentional group which connects families for a rich home learning experience. Our group connects each week for social connection, events, field trips and learning. Regular project/ subject based events run by parent volunteers run throughout the year, giving children milestones to work towards and include in their individual tailored learning plans. I as our child's primary educator, am engaged in a hands-on role guiding our child as they grow their understanding across a multitude of areas outlined in the Australian Curriculum, but far beyond the curriculum too.

The proposed legislation raises several pressing concerns that I believe need to be addressed:

Firstly, the Australian Curriculum is an incredibly complex document that has been tailored for a group environment to educate children in schools. Many schools employ curriculum specialists to interpret/ implement this document. As a homeschooler, we don't have access to this level of expertise. In order to implement this, we would need to base our learning off over-simplified textbooks, rush through topics and stop the practical, hands-on nature of our learning. In a one to one setting, this will not translate to a high-quality education.

Secondly, the legislation proposes that all home-schooling families be required to plan and learn using the Australian Curriculum aligned to their child's age equivalent level. Although this, along with wording around several other changes, is ambiguous. It raises several questions from impacted families, such as mine. How will this impact our ability to educate in a way that is responsive to our child's passions, interests and needs? Our child already reads and engages in more advanced subject learning matters well above his age equivalent learning level. How will the level of adherence to the AC be determined/communicated? If our child is forced to stick to the Acara at his age equivalent level on all subjects it's highly likely they would become disengaged. Will the proposed changes negatively impact our ability to be responsible for our child's growth and development?

Thirdly, one of the primary motivations for homeschooling is to provide our children with a personalised learning experience that fosters their intellectual curiosity and allows them to learn at their own pace. These new regulations threaten to restrict this flexibility and stifle their natural inclination to explore and discover the world around them. Our children are currently thriving. They are social, engaged and eager learners with self initiative and I believe this legislation would hamper their autonomy and engagement in the learning process!

As an active participant in the homeschool community, we participate regularly in learning co-ops and group activities. We regularly take advantage of instruction from other parents/ community, members and experts in their fields. For example: foreign language experts, council employed forest rangers, environmental experts such as geologists and biologists, farmers, business owners and art gallery facilitators to name a few. These events/ instructions often spark interests and passions within our children and currently we are able to deeply explore an area of interest. This allows us to take on a project based learning style that covers many of the bases and more of the acara. However enforcing the Australian Curriculum will severely limit this opportunistic learning and stifle the ability for us to form multi-age groups as the topics they will be investigating would be dictated according to their year level.

I am extremely worried about the lack of transparency and adequate public consultation surrounding these changes. As a stakeholder in our education system, I believe it is of vital importance for the voices of educators, parents, students, and a representative cohort of our homeschooling community to be heard and considered in any decision-making process that impacts our education system.

It is vital to acknowledge that homeschooling is often chosen by families for a variety of reasons and a one size fits all approach to the homeschooling community could be anything but inclusive and certainly not tailoring experiences to individual student needs.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed education legislation and prioritise understanding and addressing the root causes of homeschooling trends. This entails listening to and considering the feedback from homeschooling parents, who are directly impacted by these legislative changes. Their insights and experiences are invaluable in shaping effective policies that support the diverse needs of families while ensuring the well-being and educational success of children. Please advocate for a more inclusive and collaborative approach to policymaking that values input from all stakeholders and ensures the integrity and quality of our education system.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Meyer

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