

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

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**Submitted by:** Elisa Ruge  
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Elisa Ruge  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

24 March 2024

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

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding some of the proposed amendments to the education legislation in our state. I am a qualified primary teacher and have worked in full-time, contract and relief capacities. This has provided me with a wealth of experience within different state and private schools in Queensland. I have witnessed firsthand the good, the bad and the ugly within both state and private schools in terms of; teaching expertise; teacher workload; treatment of staff, parents, and students by principals; educational programs and outcomes; the behaviour management practices of staff; and the behaviour of students toward staff and fellow students.

Due to my experience, I can confidently say that mainstream schooling is oftentimes not in the best interests of children. Therefore, I strongly oppose the amendment to the legislation that states that registration with the HEU may be contingent upon the best interests of the child. I firmly believe that, in the majority of cases, it is a child's parents who know them best and therefore are the best candidates to choose the educational setting that is most appropriate for their child. I have personally chosen to home educate my child as I firmly believe that is their best interests.

Presently parents are afforded the right to choose if their child attends a state school; a private school or studies through a distance educational facility and therefore it would potentially be viewed as discriminatory if parents choosing to home educate their child were not afforded that same right. If this is not the intention of the statement in the proposed legislation then, it needs to be excluded or amended to clarify the exact purpose behind the amendment (e.g. in the case of children deemed to be risk home education registration may not be granted in consideration of the best interest of the child).

Secondly, the Australian Curriculum has been written to operate within a mainstream educational setting, not a home education setting. Current legislation requires that parents of home educated children provide them with a high-quality education as a condition of ongoing registration. I propose that if an overarching curriculum is to inform home education planning and reporting that specific curriculum documents will be written, with input from key stakeholders, catering for the differences between mainstream and home educational paradigms.

Lastly, I would like to draw attention to the fact that parents of home educated children are highly invested in their child's education. In most cases parents have sacrificed careers and income to home educate their child/children. Parents of home educated children that I interact with spend a lot of time and money ensuring that their child/children receive a personalised, high-quality education. I believe that the greater regulation of home education in Queensland is a mistake that will not improve educational outcomes for those who are home educated. I believe that the proposed legislative changes will cause an even greater number of parents to choose not to register their child/children with the HEU in the future. As a parent of a child registered with the HEU I feel the proposed legislative changes, that are not tailored to cater for the idiosyncrasies of the home education paradigm, seem like a slap in the face to those that are lawfully providing their child/children with a personalised and high-quality home education.

Kind Regards,



Elisa Ruge