

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

**Submission No:** 1914  
**Submitted by:** Boy Page  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** See attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

Dear Committee,

I am writing in regards to the new legislative education policy changes brought forth which affect the homeschooling of our children in Queensland. I DO NOT support all of the proposed changes.

I am a father of four children whom are home educated by my loving wife. Our eldest two boys started in a mainstream school which we found did not meet our boys educational or emotional needs. We withdrew our children from mainstream school some seven years ago and never looked back. This is by far the most rewarding endeavour with our family, and the proposed changes to the legislation threaten to corrupt this beautiful family fabric we have tailored so hard to weave.

I have listed below my three main concerns regarding the legislative changes proposed.

- **Following the national curriculum (s217)**

This is fundamentally the most restrictive and destructive change for a homeschooling family. Homeschooling supports flexibility which allows children to far surpass their 'grade' level in areas of their strengths. On the flip side, children who may be struggling in a certain area, can be allowed time to fully understand the subject matter before moving them on. Should we rein back on high achievers and talented children? Push on with children who are not understanding their subject matter? Just to appease an idea of national standards? This displays a blatant disregard of a child's education and shows an incredible lack of understanding for the purpose of home schooling.

- **Reporting on all subjects (s217)**

Reporting on all subjects whilst following a national curriculum (or any curriculum) is unnecessarily burdensome on parents, once again, just to appease a governing authority. A parent homeschooling their child/children has already chosen to do so under great sacrifice to ensure that their child/children is subject to a learning style and environment which will promote and develop the best possible educational outcome and love for lifelong learning. Why committee, does it seem necessary to subjugate parents to justify progression outcomes for every individual subject, when the parents have already created a learning program and environment which caters to the child at a holistic level, rather than at the individual facets which you have proposed?

- **Homeschooling in the best interest of the child (s7)**

This statement is far too open to interpretation. As a homeschooling parent who already understands the best educational and supportive framework for the interests of their child, it begs to question who has the authority to define such a statement. As this statement is directed at the safety and wellbeing of the child it must also be asked whether a public or private school could whole heartedly answer this same question. In my own personal experience through school, our primary school deputy principle was convicted of offences related to child pornography. In high school at one point, we had the highest suspension rate in QLD (mostly related to fighting/violence), we had a suicide and 11 girls were pregnant in senior year. I would like the committee to 'define' that mainstream schooling was 'in the best interest' of my education and wellbeing?

This change would be a double standard; hypocritical at best.

I sincerely hope that my questions asked, information provided and personal experiences shared, are thoroughly considered in relation to the changes proposed for the educational legislation which affects homeschooling in this great state of ours.

Sincerely,

Boy Page

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