

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

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**From:** [Paula Bykiw](#)  
**To:** [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to Proposed Changes to Homeschooling in QLD  
**Date:** Monday, 25 March 2024 9:20:12 AM

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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.

While my son, who is now 16, is almost finished his homeschooling journey, it absolutely horrifies me that all future homeschoolers would be subject to these changes.

My son has homeschooled since prep, with a few brief attempts at government schooling, including 6 weeks at prep, and almost two terms at year 3. His negative educational experiences at school are still stamped in his memory. That is another discussion though.

My son is intelligent, sensitive, kind, empathetic, and incredibly driven to learn. He is on the autism spectrum. He recently completed a Clifton Strengths test as part of his weekly personal development class, and scored almost entirely in the 'strategic' theme as his top five traits. This means that he leads his life through strategic thinking, constantly desiring to learn the facts, including delving into historical evidence, to lead his decision-making for the future. He is intensely interested in modern history, including world war documentation, traits of historical leaders, politics, and socio-economics. Many people who speak with him are fascinated by his depth of knowledge on many subjects, and his high level of emotional intelligence.

He is also, however, dysgraphic, dyslexic and add.

When you put that combination, which is somewhat common in the homeschooling community, in front of the standard Australian curriculum, what you end up with is a child who looks like a dummy. And, when you try to force that curriculum on them repeatedly, you end up making them think that of themselves as well. At best, with loads of frustration and support, they can end up being a 'mediocre' student.

The reason is that although these kids are incredibly bright, and armed with the innate skills to become outstanding future citizens, in their chosen career, they have almost no tolerance for being force-fed information their brains deem irrelevant, and then being expected to produce some kind of 'results' from that. My son would literally fall asleep at the table in his earlier years, when I tried to, for a long time, put that curriculum in front of him, and treat homeschool just like school at home.

As a former A-grade student and academic high-achiever myself, it took me years to reconcile with my son's differences. I still struggle at times, especially when I panic about having Math and English samples ready for the HEU at reporting time, and fear him losing his right to registration.

Some kids just aren't designed for the ACARA curriculum. It is not in their best interests. And as homeschooling parents, we accept that, and we go to extraordinary lengths to craft an education for our kids, by ourselves, and with help and advice from our community of fellow homeschooling parents. We invest hours upon hours of time into our children, year after year, with very little financial support, or free access to resources like music equipment or high-powered microscopes. We have to pay for every learning experience

our children require, and it is at times a struggle and a compromise between what we want and what we can afford. All the same, it is still lightyears ahead of what our children would have had to endure at school, in order to access that taxpayer-funded equipment, so we do it happily.

Please don't try to force the ACARA curriculum on homeschooling children. It isn't good for them. We've figured that out as their parents, amidst fear of judgement from our families and communities, and fear our children won't 'succeed' at life without it.

Kind regards,  
Paula Bykiw



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