

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [Sinead Kelly](#)
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Advocating for Informed Legislation on Homeschooling
Date: Monday, 25 March 2024 9:34:07 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As a highly educated member of our community with a degree in Physics, Mathematics and Computer Science and a post graduate in Applied Physics, I am someone that is deeply invested in the education of my child. I've made the conscious choice to homeschool, recognising that the mainstream educational system may not always suit or, in some cases, can even harm children.

I firmly believe that without lived experience, it's challenging to fully grasp the intricacies of homeschooling and to understand what legislative measures are truly needed to ensure homeschooled children receive a quality education. It's not merely about enforcing rigid curriculum requirements but rather about fostering an environment that empowers parents to provide personalised, holistic education tailored to their children's individual needs and aspirations.

While the Australian curriculum may be presented as a superior option, it's essential to acknowledge that it's just one of many possibilities. For some children, it may indeed be adequate, but for others, it may not align with their learning preferences or life goals. This underscores the importance of offering diverse schooling options and supporting parents in making informed decisions about their children's education.

In addition, I am also deeply concerned regarding some of the other proposals in this bill in particular the very vague reference to 'best interests of the child'. It is not clear what this means and who would make this decision. Let me be very clear that as a parent I am person best placed to make any decisions for my child. This needs to be removed immediately.

I am also very disappointed with the lack of consultation with the homeschooling community regarding this bill. Engaging with a few companies who provide homeschool curriculum (and therefore stand to financially gain from this bill) could certainly not be considered adequate.

It is important to note that:

- Qld has NO official state homeschooling association.
- The two people representing the people directly, Amanda Bartle and Patricia Fitzgerald, were actively excluded.
- Amanda and Patricia were well known to the EGPA review team and directors, and were actively excluded, as was mentioned in the briefing.
- As Amanda and Patricia were not engaged I feel that I was therefore not represented in the second round of consultation. We need an official association to be set up to allow proper

consultation.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to approach homeschooling legislation with a deep appreciation for the lived experiences of homeschooling families and a commitment to ensuring that all children have access to a quality education that meets their unique needs. By listening to the voices of homeschooling parents and advocating for policies that promote flexibility, autonomy, and inclusivity, we can create a more equitable and responsive educational system for all.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,
Sinead Kelly

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