

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Proposed Homeschooling Bill
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To the Committee,

I am writing to share my concern regarding the bill proposing change to current homeschooling requirements in Queensland.

I have friends whose children are home educated. Although they all began in mainstream school, they were removed for various reasons including anxiety, academic gaps in learning, and issues surrounding individual diagnoses which were not suitably catered for. I have witnessed the incredible change in these children since they began homeschooling over the past two years. They are growing and maturing in safe environments where they are known and loved, where their individual needs are met and their mental and emotional health is prospering. They are thriving academically where their mothers have sourced appropriate curriculum for their learning styles and needs.

The evidence of the success of homeschooling according to their preferred curriculum is seen in the academic outcomes of these children (and many others). They are excelling! Even in areas of difficulty, they are able to spend the time needed to learn each concept thoroughly, something which was not possible at school and resulted in falling further behind.

As a mother and grandmother myself, I have become quite concerned over recent years witnessing the increasing prevalence of anxiety in children learning under an intensely pressurised curriculum. The high pressure and expectations begin when our children are only four years old in Prep! They are not developmentally ready for the kind of learning that school classroom education promotes.

I am also concerned that the Australian curriculum is frequently used as a platform to promote political and social ideology. It is not appropriate for homeschool families to be forced to follow this curriculum if they oppose certain aspects of it for religious or cultural reasons. Perhaps there should be a mandatory base-curriculum set which covers the crucial learning outcomes in literacy and numeracy only, which all children deserve to receive and thoroughly learn in a way and timeframe that works for them, whether they are home educated or mainstream educated.

It is clear the real problem exists in the current education setting and Australian curriculum. Why are our literacy and numeracy rates so low and continuing to fall? Why are so many families sacrificing careers, income and time to choose to homeschool their children? These are the questions that need to be asked and addressed.

Please support our dedicated homeschooling families by allowing them to continue to select appropriate curriculum for their children which cater to their diverse needs and assist them to not only achieve success academically, but to thrive mentally and emotionally as well.

Regards,

[REDACTED]