

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submission regarding Amendments to the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006

Dear Committee/Minister,

I am writing to express my disapproval to the proposed changes to the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006.

It is with disquiet that I have learned of your desire to further regulate homeschooling in Queensland.

The language in the proposed amendment bill is unclear, very broad and leads me to consider that it may be deliberately done so to confuse the public while in actuality it is/can be used as a Trojan horse to bring in more draconian rules and regulations.

As the parent and therefore the person most invested in our child's future, it should be our right to educate our children according to what we see our child, needs to optimize their learning experience so as to leverage off their strong points and enhance the weaker areas of their learning style.

There is no way that a “one learning style fits all” approach (ie:- following a government set curriculum) can address the different learning styles and needs of every child and have the flexibility to test measure and change the learning approach as the child is developing.

I understand that homeschooling has risen over 200% in QLD, with over 10,000 Queensland families now embracing this approach. To me, this is a testament to the effectiveness that parents are recognising in the homeschooling approach and a recognition that every child is unique, and that a one-size-fits-all education system cannot cater to their individual needs.

There is ample evidence to show that homeschooled students are successful and even excel academically, socially and emotionally and to force parents and students into a “government box” not only infringes on parental rights but also will stifle the innovation, creativity and flexibility that encourages the child to learn in a fashion that best suits their particular needs.

My personal experience and observations of homeschooling families is that the parents are dedicated to the development of their children on every level (not just scholastically) and the children are some of the smartest, most well adjusted children you could find, with the end result (young adults) showing that they can be (and are) successful in whatever path they choose in life. In fact, the quality of these young adults is a testament to the power of freedom in education.

My contention and observation is that homeschooling produces intelligent well adjusted young adults who are (and will continue to be) a huge asset to society.

It seems to be the predilection of government in general to over-regulate every aspect of society and in the process stifle the individualism, innovation and self-determination of the very fabric of that society to the detriment of all!

And given that the few Australian studies conducted comparing the educational outcome of mainstream schooled children versus home-school children all concluded that homeschooled children achieve as high or higher than their peers, it seems questionable as to on what grounds the proposed changes have been even mentioned.

Put another way.... IF IT AIN'T BROKE DON'T FIX IT!

I strongly urge you to stop this assault on individual rights and freedoms on the grounds that it is baseless, provably unnecessary, invasive and a further squandering of government resources.

Yours (with concern)