Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From:

To: Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee

Subject: Changes to Homeschooling in Queensland Date: Monday, 25 March 2024 10:09:09 AM

Dear People in Charge of Homeschooling Regulations in Queensland,

We are the parents of 3 (soon to be 4) little people. Our oldest son is almost 7 and we started a more formalised homeschooling program with him just over 2 years ago.

We have always planned to homeschool our children as we love the flexibility it offers them to focus time on areas of interest and work on character development. We strongly believe by tailoring education to suit each of our children's learning styles and providing 1-1 support that we can provide the best opportunity for them to flourish in and love learning.

We have been so thankful that we made the choice to homeschool and have seen the benefits first hand with our son. He is a high energy child and would have entered school at a stage where he was still unable to sit still or focus for long. We believe this would have landed him in a tricky position in a large classroom where he would have acted out and become disruptive. This would have had a negative impact on his and his peers' learning and potentially damaged his opinions of academic work moving forward. By schooling him at home we have been able to provide him with the activity his active personality requires while working on his ability for focussed attention and allowing him to grow academically in a context that supports him as an individual.

From another perspective, we have loved being able to search high and wide for curriculums that best support learning styles. With such a wealth to pick from we have been able to tailor his education beautifully to his needs, learning pace and learning style. We have been able to grow his love for reading with quality literature, and encourage his love for nature with nature journaling and ample time for outside adventures and play. He has had the opportunity to expand his skills in a range of extracurricular activities such as woodwork and sports while still being able to use his sit down focus time to work on his math and phonics abilities. I very strongly believe that would be struggling academically, despite his natural aptitude, if we had placed him into a typical schooling environment.

Given the above and how much we have seen our son flourish in a homeschooling environment we do not agree with the proposed changes to homeschooling in Queensland. We are saddened to think that we could potentially lose the ability to tailor our son's education as best suits him by choosing from the wealth of learning options offered globally. We understand that a national curriculum is required for those attending a typical school as teachers would be far overloaded picking a different curriculum for each individual child. But, as homeschool parents, we have the ability to tailor education in a very detailed way for each of our children. Taking our rights away in this area would greatly reduce the quality of homeschool education and reduce the huge benefits for the children who are being schooled in this way due to their individual learning needs. We want our children to love learning and to florish in their learning. If each child has a different ideal way of learning and a different personality - shouldn't that be supported where possible?

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Nabil and Allison Basha (parents of

Kind regards,

Allison Basha