

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by: Rebecca Green
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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Submission regarding proposed changes to Home Education
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To the Queensland Parliament Committee on Education,

I am writing to you as I strongly oppose the proposed Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.

I would like to mention that I think it has been extremely unfair for the homeschooling community to allow such a small window of time to address these changes and to submit our thoughts. Personally, I was sent no email or letter notifications of the proposed changes, so if it weren't for such an active homeschooling community in Queensland I would know nothing about this.

I am most distressed about the inclusion of 'in the best interests' within the Bill. There is no authority that knows my children better than myself and my husband. My children are in the minority when it comes to homeschooling. We don't do it due to mental or emotional wellbeing. There are no disabilities here or religion instructions that we feel we need to follow. However, I also don't think the culture of schools is necessarily the best place for children (have you heard the language and content of conversation of school kids, as well as the general level of etiquette these days?). Homeschooling also gives our family the freedom and opportunity to travel more regularly allowing our children to get a worldly education, meet so many new people, immerse themselves in other cultures and be learning from every activity they do. Did you know that whilst my son's old school friends were in the classroom learning about aboriginal culture and Uluru we were there talking with Elders, staying within an aboriginal community, listening to their stories, learning about bush tucker, hunting and their history etc? Do you really think that sitting in the classroom would have been better than the hands on experience homeschooling provided my children?

And as for having to follow the Australian Curriculum, honestly this just seems ridiculous. I don't think you would find any study ever that would suggest this curriculum is the highest standard in the world so why would it be forced upon home-schoolers when it is not necessary? Of course in mainstream you cannot tailor to every child's needs and therefore a standardised curriculum has its place, but that's the beauty of homeschooling. We can (and personally do) follow some of the Australian Curriculum for certain subjects, but the ability to pick and choose from different curriculums and different resources enables us to work with our children's wants and needs. We don't have to stick to topics selected for their 'grade' level, we can jump a year or 2 in maths if they are above their mainstream school peers and we can spend more time on topics that are more difficult for them or those of more importance. As home-schoolers we already spend a great deal of time, money and energy ensuring our children receive the best education possible. We provide detailed plans and reports to HEU each year and the addition of needing to meet the Australian Curriculum I truly believe will only hinder the children, as well as provide the parents and HEU staff endless and unnecessary amounts of paperwork.

I would also like to bring to your attention the lack of consultation with home-

schoolers. Queensland has no official state homeschooling association and the two people (Amanda Bartle and Patricia Fitzgerald) representing the people directly, and who are very well known to the EGPA review team and directors, were actively excluded, as was mentioned in the briefing. This is very worrying to myself and many other home-schoolers and something that I feel needs to be addressed immediately.

In conclusion, I hope for the sake of all current and future generations you really consider the need for this legislation.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Green

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