

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Submission re. Changes to home schooling.
Date: Monday, 25 March 2024 10:30:15 AM

Committee Secretary
Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent education legislation changes that have been proposed in our state. I DO NOT AGREE WITH THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO HOME SCHOOLING. As a constituent and a member of the community, I believe it is crucial to voice my objections to the potential impact of these changes on our education system.

I am a life long tax paying resident in the area, a law abiding citizen and deeply committed to community service. In short, family, kids and community service (just like you) are my passions. I don't bother or burden government and I believe I deserve the same or at the very least, to be heard. I'm definitely not in a cult and unlike what many suggest, the education my children receive is not "off grid". In fact every year we supply the government with plans that the HEU (Qld Government Dept.) need to both approve at the beginning and assessed and approved at the end of every school year. No child left behind like it should be but not necessarily what we experienced in our child's school based learning days.

For 4 years my wife and I attended school meetings, made appointments for health care assessments and spent every waking minute researching how to best help our first child handle schooling better. The results of all this worked presented us with the fact our daughter is neurodiverse. Our world looked very different from then on. See when you know better (through her diagnosis) you can do better!

It's true that Covid gave us the chance to actually see the mechanisms behind home education but honestly, after wishing for this change for many years and now having it forced upon us, we witnessed first hand our daughter's educational struggles and were able to adjust her learning program to enable her to actually learn... but more importantly we got our daughter back in our lives! You see, the stress of school life meant for all her waking hours outside of school was spent crying and hating who she was and how she was made to feel in the school system. She (and subsequently our family as a whole) had no life outside of the trauma of school and the aftermath for every other hour and day. We just couldn't do this to our beautiful child. No one could continue this cruelty to their own child.

So knowing better about how our daughter functions and learning what better looked like, we took to full time home educating. Hand on my heart, I will never send my children (2) to a school now, now that I know better. A tailor made education for

someone with my daughters make up and that of my sons neurotypical make up can not be beaten!

The term “best practice” has been mentioned in regards to the proposed legislation amendments but I can tell you right now that there should be no correlation between best practice and school based Australian curriculum. A school based Australian curriculum education (of which statistically isn’t reaching its markers) is a “one size fits all” but a more factually correct assessment would state it’s a “one size fits 20-30 kids with 1 teacher to deliver” program. No one can tell me that this “bulk buy” education is better for the individual student. Unless mass production factory output with lower quality control is the desired “ benchmark education“ we hope our future to hold. Maybe the question of why so many families are now homeschooling should be addressed not how do we bring them into line with a system that doesn’t work. When you know better, you do better! When you actually see a child seek and thrive in an educational journey that they also have some ownership in designing, that is when you actually see the better!

Know better, do better, see better, be better! That’s my request for you today, seek us out, see our life, meet our children and witness their awesomeness! All we want is that you don’t stop us from doing better without you know what better looks like. My question to you is, “who actually stated that these amendments would improve a child’s education and safety ?” Because they obviously neglected to engage with the homeschooling community or witness the brilliance that is a tailor made homeschooling education. For all children, an education that is custom made for the child can never be beaten.

The proposed legislation raises several pressing concerns that I believe need to be addressed. Firstly, the belief that our children are mere robots that will all learn the same thing, from the same book, in the same steps, at the same age. With no interest in challenging the status quo nothing will improve. At the very least homeschooling strategies should be monitored for the chance to implement positive change in the Australian curriculum at school and not stifled just purely for offering different. A different that includes the individual student in the plan.

Moreover, I am worried about the lack of transparency and public consultation surrounding these changes. As a stakeholder in our education system, I believe it is imperative for the voices of educators, parents, students, and community members to be heard and considered in any decision-making process that impacts our ability to educate our children to the highest standard.

Additionally, upon your request, I am happy to supply you with written submissions from health care professionals with real life observations they have made on the benefits and results home education families are achieving. And consequently, the KPI’s not being met by the current school curriculum offered in our school system. In light of these concerns, I urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed education legislation and to prioritise the best interests of our rapidly growing and proactive home educating community. I implore you to advocate for a more inclusive and collaborative approach to policymaking that values input from all stakeholders and ensures the integrity and quality of our education system.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for considering my concerns. I look forward to your response on this important issue.

Sincerely,
Geoff Madden.

