

## Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 1999  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Attachments:** No attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

Dear Committee,

I am writing to you today to express my deep concern regarding the proposed amendments contained within the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.

As a home-educating family, we take great pride in having chosen this path to educate our child. We chose to begin homeschooling not due to a diagnosed disability or learning difficulty, but because it is our belief that mainstream schools do not provide a high-quality education for each individual child. We also want to actively contribute to and guide the learning journey our child is on. The ability to tailor our child's learning program to suit her interests and abilities within individual learning areas directly impacts her motivation to engage and, as a result, she is excelling in all areas compared to her year level peers.

Of great concern to me is the inclusion of a guiding principle that has the potential to remove my power as a parent to make decisions for my child regarding her education. There is limited detail available regarding who will determine what 'in the best interests of the child' means and there appears to be much scope for the interpretation of this. This begs the question; will home education continue to be a legitimate option for educating our children in Queensland?

I absolutely agree that every child has the right to access a high-quality education, however, I oppose the view that this can only be accessed within the mainstream school system. It concerns me that one of the proposed changes is to impose the National Curriculum as the only curriculum document to be utilised by home educating families. It is my understanding that some home educating families do utilise the National Curriculum as the primary framework to plan for and report on their children's learning, however, there are many families that choose to utilise other frameworks and do so successfully. I am concerned about the National Curriculum being used as the definition of a high-quality education and therefore the only framework to be used for two primary reasons. Firstly, this does not provide flexibility for home educating families to fully harness the amazing potential of multi-age and integrated learning opportunities that are informed by a wide range of frameworks and resources. Secondly, I am concerned that the proposed change in this area will remove the ability for our children to begin their Tertiary Education early (as a large number of home educated children currently do). The ability to tailor learning programs to extend our children's learning is one of the many benefits home education.

The proposed change to remove the certificate and provide a newly named 'notice' concerns me in that it appears to dismiss the validity of home education. It is my understanding that providing the certificate is not an onerous task for HEU staff members and, as such, there appears to be no real need to have this removed from the official documentation home educating families receive.

I am concerned that the consultation process engaged in prior to this point was not only biased towards businesses but done in a way that actively excluded those who represent the home-educating community in Queensland and did not address the key amendments being proposed. In addition to this, I am extremely disappointed to report that I did not receive any communication via email from the Home Education Unit extending an invitation to make a submission in response to the proposed amendments. This oversight is deeply concerning and has resulted in many families not receiving this invitation, thus being unaware of the details of how to respond and advocate for their themselves.

I look forward to seeing a response from the committee to the submissions currently being made by not only home educating families and children, but also teachers and school staff from across the state.

I sincerely thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Regards,

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