

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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To the committee,

I am a home educating mother to 3 boys in rural Qld, registered since 2019. I am not a covid home educator.

I home educate because the school system did not know what to do with my middle son. He was too advanced to repeat prep, too behind to stay and they were at a loss as to what the answer was..

I home educate because the school system was taking my beautiful creative boys and returning me anxious, tired shells of themselves.

I home educate because once I made the decision to leave the school system the Head of Primary where we were attending said in relation to my oldest son "he is an average student what more do you want".....

I continue to home educate because I have witnessed my boys blossom into creative, kind, compassionate, confident, inquisitive, joyful young men who are leaders in our home education community.

I continue to home educate because the agenda of left is being forced onto our society and as a conservative, white, Christian family. I will not allow my children to be victims of the latest leftist fixations.

My concern is that these proposed changes to the education bill is another opportunity for the government to make decisions on behalf of children when that should be the role of parents.

As a society we must protect at risk children, the abuse of a child is unforgivable, a child missing out on the gift of education is inexcusable however using the death of a child to push an agenda onto a community that was built for the betterment of children is disgusting.

The minister of Education has put forward a bill based on the report into the death of a home educated child. (Death Review Board Annual Report 2022-2023), a report that was cited many times at the public hearing as one of the reasons these changes needed to made. This report was not submitted to parliament until after the new education bill was released so I am not sure how this can successfully be a supportive document. This child is not an accurate representation of the home education families as a whole and only demonstrates the lack in other government departments dealing with the mental health crisis.

At face value these changes do not seem to be too worrying, mostly we can deal with them but it is the ambiguous nature of some of the words used.

Referring to Division 2, Clause 18, Section 7 Guiding Principles

"best interests" - who defines this term? Is it what I believe is in the best interest of MY child or what the government believes is best.

“high quality” – who defines this term? I do not see the Australian Curriculum as high standard I see it as a way politicising education and ensuring our children are being taught the agenda of the government.

“recognises the educational needs” – who decides the educational needs of my child? Shouldn't I as the parent have the right and privilege to decide this.

My concern is that parents are being pushed aside when it comes to the decision making in regards to our children's education, I quietly pulled my children out of a system that was not working for them, I keep them out now of a system that I do not agree with , now that system is trying to creep into my home.

This will not help children, this cant help children.

I am happy to appear before the committee as this. It is to big to discuss in one submission . The home education community was barely consulted at first . Please consult us now.