

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Concern Regarding the Current Education Legislation Bill 2024
Date: Monday, 25 March 2024 11:11:00 AM

To the Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee, I am writing to register my objection to the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Bill 2024 in the current form.

I have specific concerns with the implications of Clauses 18, 64 & 68 and I am in support of the Free2homeschool Movement.

These clauses will have a direct impact on homeschooling families and their freedom of choice when it comes to educating their children; therefore having a detrimental effect on thousands of children across this proud state of Queensland.

As a family we have seen the benefits of homeschooling repeatedly over the past decade. All three of our children have been educated at home for the entirety of their student career. I am a teacher and Head of School and my wife is a trained special needs and mainstream educator. We have seen the Australian Curriculum and its implementation up close and we strongly believe that using a wide range of resources (often outside the scope of the Australian Curriculum), as well as individually designed and sourced student programs for our children, provides far superior educational experiences and learning outcomes.

Our daughter did not enjoy writing and found it extremely difficult. We followed the Australian Curriculum for a time and even joined distance education for short periods. Once we left this behind and embarked on a journey to meet the educational needs of our daughter using alternative curriculum she flourished. At the age of 14 she is currently writing her third novel. Our youngest son has found reading particularly difficult. In a mainstream setting he would have struggled but by being able to slow down and address what he was finding difficult, with a variety of alternative resources, has meant that he is now doing well at an age appropriate level.

As a teacher and leader in a special assistance school I have consistently seen similar situations turn into extremely damaging and negative experiences for young people. My multi-disciplinary team and I have to address these many needs from a trauma informed angle.

If we did not have the freedom to provide my son with these alternative resources, environments and timelines the outcome for him could have been very different.

As a teacher of over 30 years experience teacher I understand that we attend university and undergo specific study and training in order to be able to implement this curriculum. To think that now parents should be expected to implement this curriculum, is in my opinion, is misguided and speaks to an agenda rather than wisdom.

There is no need to limit parents in such a manner. As I have discovered in the last 14 years, parents who home educate do not do so because they are lazy. It is because they are passionate. They are passionate about their children and the opportunities provided for them and they're willing to sacrifice a second income to give their children an education. The easy option would be to put their kids in school. Parents have special insight into their children and their learning. We research and spend precious finance to access quality

materials and curriculum that will really benefit our young people and set them up for success.

Please do not limit parents' ability to do this by enforcing a curriculum that was designed for implementation with classes of 20-30 students. There are plenty of wonderful educators who would be more than happy to assist with alternatives to this legislation, alternatives that would benefit all - especially our children.

Kind regards
Darryl Mulholland



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