

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Objection to EGPA Changes to home education laws
Date: Monday, 25 March 2024 11:12:56 AM

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed changes to home education laws and requirements in our state in the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. I do NOT agree with the proposed changes.

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a homeschooling parent of four children. I am trained in psychology, and come from a family of educators. Our family's decision to homeschool is deeply rooted in our personal beliefs and lifestyle. We prioritise holistic well-being, ensuring that our children's education encompasses mental, emotional, and physical aspects, rather than focusing solely on academic achievement. Homeschooling allows us to tailor their education to their individual needs and interests and focus on their strengths rather than their weaknesses, which provides a comprehensive learning experience that goes beyond the confines of a traditional curriculum.

As a parent who has successfully homeschooled our four clever and well-adjusted children for the past 11 years, I believe it is crucial to voice my strong objections to these proposed changes and their potential impact on both our family and the broader homeschooling community.

Over the past eleven years, I have observed that my children learn best through inquiry and interest-led learning, engaging deeply when they are passionate about a topic. Our children have excelled in this environment, learning at their own pace, diving deep into their own specific interests, and surpassing their schooled peers in many areas. I strongly object to the inclusion of the National curriculum as the definition of a high quality education. Imposing the national curriculum on my children would slow them down (as they are well ahead in certain areas of the curriculum),

limit their meaningful learning (as the most meaningful learning happens when it is relevant and of interest to the child), and crowd their days with mundane tasks necessary to tick curriculum boxes, rather than seeing them continue to learn, grow, and excel in their own areas of interest and talent. The one-size-fits-all approach, as proposed, would stifle their natural curiosity, hinder their academic and personal growth, and be of great detriment to both my children's learning and general well-being. The National curriculum is not a suitable substitute for the carefully created, individualised education each of my children currently receives and needs to thrive.

I must express my firm opposition to the proposed changes that impose an unjustifiably increased workload and increased reporting requirements on home educators. The requirement to report on 8 different Key Learning Areas is excessive. This places a significant burden on homeschooling parents and takes away valuable planning and learning time with our children. Reporting should be simplified to ensure that it does not detract from the quality of education provided at home.

I am also deeply concerned about the lack of transparency and public consultation surrounding these changes. The consultation process by Di Farmer and the EGPA has been limited and biased. Local homeschooling stakeholders who have the best interests of their local homeschooling community at heart, specifically Amanda Bartle and Patricia Fitzgerald, have been intentionally blocked from the consultation process. Amanda and Patricia are well known to the EGPA review team and directors, yet were actively excluded. Furthermore, homeschooling families have only been given a short window of time to respond to these proposed changes, which must be juggled to fit in around their busy families and homeschooling schedules. As stakeholders in our education system, I believe it is imperative for the voices of home families, both parents and students, and their homeschooling communities to be heard and considered in any decision-making process that impacts our ability to educate our children to the highest standard.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the proposed education legislation and to recognize the value and benefits of homeschooling that is 'tailored to suit the child' for families In Queensland. We are dedicated to providing our children with a bespoke, holistic education that nurtures their well-being, their individuality, and prepares them for a successful future. I implore you to advocate for policies that support and empower homeschooling families to continue providing high-quality education tailored specifically to their children's individual needs.

Please do not make it harder for parents who have chosen to invest their lives in their children's individual, holistic, and meaningful learning journeys.

I trust you will consider my concerns on this important issue. I look forward to your prompt response.

Please redact all identifying features before publishing.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]