

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: 
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: QLD Ed Legislation Proposal Submission
Date: Monday, 25 March 2024 11:39:33 AM

Dear Committee Members,

As a homeschooling parent of a child with several disabilities, including intense behaviours. I am deeply disappointed by the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation. For many children with disabilities and neurodivergences, homeschooling is not just a choice but a necessity—an opportunity to create an environment where they can thrive at their own pace and in their own unique way. The proposed legislation takes away flexibility that is absolutely required for my child and many others.

It is disheartening to see a focus on making homeschooling more rigid rather than addressing the systemic barriers that prevent many children with disabilities from accessing quality education in mainstream schools. Instead of imposing restrictive measures on homeschooling families, the committee's efforts would be better directed towards making mainstream schools more accessible and inclusive for all students, regardless of their abilities or differences.

When my child did attend mainstream school for a very short period, the only feedback from the principal is that it had been such a short time, my reply to the principal was that their idea of a short time and our idea of a short time differ greatly; in such a 'short time' much damage was done to my child. My child would beat on their chest repeating the words "the teachers are mean, the teachers are mean" and still does 2 years later as we pass this school. This child was extremely excited to attend school. The school refused to take verbal complaints or gain understanding, everything had to be formalised; there is no more allowance to 'pop in to chat with a teacher' to allow for smoother process overall and enviably access to education in a mainstream setting. I refuse to spend the years of my child's already impacted life arguing with a bureaucracy that doesn't much care for the individual. I will focus on my child and his quality of life as advised to do so by many professionals within the health sector. There is no one size fits all for Education in Australia, trying to implement this via the proposed legislation is bordering if not already discriminative to those students who live with a disability, neurodivergence and or are gifted.

Children with disabilities often face significant challenges in traditional school settings, where rigid structures and standardised approaches may not, in our case DO NOT accommodate their

diverse needs. Homeschooling provides a lifeline for these children, offering the flexibility and personalised support they require to learn and grow in a safe and nurturing environment.

Rather than limiting the options available to families, we should be working to ensure that all children have access to a range of educational opportunities that meet their individual needs and preferences. This includes advocating for greater resources and support for inclusive education practices within mainstream schools, as well as providing alternative options like homeschooling for those who require a more tailored approach.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the committee to reconsider its approach to homeschooling legislation and to prioritise the needs of children with disabilities and neurodivergences.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

(please remove personal details above prior to any publication of this submission)