

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Monday 25th March 2024

Committee Secretary
Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Committee Members,

As a homeschooler who has been enrolled with the HEU for the past eight years I would like to express my concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 concerning homeschool and homeschoolers.

I am most concerned that the Queensland Government appears to want higher control regarding;

1. What I can and cannot learn
2. If it is in my best interests to homeschool
3. Flexibility to enter Tertiary studies in my high school years.

I am expanding further on these points below.

A large portion of homeschoolers left mainstream school *because* of the inflexibility in what was taught, especially ACARA. I don't believe that we should now have to be controlled to such an extent. Homeschoolers, and myself included, enjoy a freedom to learn what interests us and what suits our ability level *NOT* our age. I myself enjoy learning what may be considered above age level in subjects such as Science, History and English. I also learning about and doing things such as sewing, extensive art e.g. painting and drawing etc and other life skills. If the use of ACARA goes ahead then I will not be able to explore these other topics which are not apart of ACARA, and that I am currently doing and excelling at.

I do not believe that the government should ever that the ability to tell my parents that my decision to homeschool was wrong and that I then have to go to school. That is my parent's job, they know me best, my ability and how I can benefit from that. Please tell me, how does the government know what is in my and every other homeschoolers best interest? Does it even matter as long as we are learning in a safe and happy environment? It is just wrong. This job is and always should be my parents.

No body should be restricted in how much they can learn. If I want to do TAFE in grade 8 or Open University in grade 10 then I should be able to. My knowledge and ability should not be crushed or halted just because I am your idea of the right age. Knowledge should be available to everyone no matter what the age, this includes further education and tertiary studies.

This is why I do not want the proposed changes to the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 to go ahead.

Thank you for your attention and consideration. I look forward to your response on this important issue.

Sincerely,

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