

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 2049
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Publication:
Attachments: No attachment
Submitter Comments:

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Advocating for Homeschooling Autonomy, Celebrating the Success of Home-Educated Children: Upholding Parental Rights
Date: Monday, 25 March 2024 11:52:55 AM
Importance: High

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my profound concern over the proposed changes to education legislation in Queensland, which suggest a mandatory alignment for homeschooling with the Australian National Curriculum.

Such a move severely limits the educational autonomy and flexibility that are essential for children's diverse learning requirements, especially those for whom traditional schooling models have proved ineffective. As parents, it is crucial that we retain the right to determine what constitutes a quality education for our children, and this includes the prerogative to devise personalised learning experiences that deviate from standardised curricula.

My journey in home education began when my children were 8 and 11 years old. Despite their private school education, it became apparent that the standardised curriculum was not meeting their needs, as highlighted by concerns raised by their teachers regarding their writing and focus. Despite their previous school's feedback regarding concerns about writing and focusing, I witnessed firsthand that the problem was not with my children but with an educational environment that did not suit them. The prescribed curriculum did not captivate their interest nor recognise their individual strengths, which are so vital to their engagement and learning.

Upon embracing homeschooling, the creative and adaptable teaching methods we employed allowed my eldest son to express his learning style vividly. He showed me that to write a story, he first needed to visualise and 'meet' his characters—an imaginative process that standardised curricula and teaching did not accommodate. Our homeschooling experience revealed that the issue lay not with my children's abilities but with an inflexible educational system. Through homeschooling, my sons have been able to explore and develop their unique talents, leading to a genuine love for learning.

The transformation in our home education approach has been profound and deeply rewarding. By prioritising my children's individual learning styles and interests, we have seen them not only succeed academically but also thrive as whole individuals. Now, at 17 and 20 years old, they are flourishing, contributing to their community, and embodying the true spirit of engaged, lifelong learners.

The current proposal to enforce the Australian curriculum as the definition of high-quality education fails to recognise that parents are best positioned to discern the educational needs of their children. I strongly advocate for the committee to recognise and support the invaluable role that parent-led education plays in fostering successful, adaptable, and socially contributing individuals. The proposed legislation, with its one-size-fits-all mentality, undermines the bespoke education plans that have enabled my children and many others to achieve such growth and success.

In conclusion, I implore the committee to respect the autonomy, voices, and experiences of homeschooling families, who are a testament to the efficacy and necessity of an education system that honours parental insight and child-specific learning needs. I also ask that the committee reject the notion that the Australian National Curriculum should be the sole benchmark for educational excellence. We ask that you preserve our freedom to provide our children with an education that is as unique and limitless as their potential.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this vital matter.

Sincerely,

Heidi Conway

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