

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 2056
Submitted by: Lynda Rocca
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From:

Subject:

Date:

Re: Objection to Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Monday, 25 March 2024 11:54:31 AM

Dear Committee Members, Di Farmer Education Minister, Mr Mark Bailey MP Member for Miller, Dr. Christian Rowan Shadow Education Minister, Mr Brent Mickelberg Member for Buderim, Mr Barry O'Rourke Member for Rockhampton, Mr Nick Dametto Member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Joe Kelly MP Member for Greenslopes, Mr James Lister MP Member for Southern Downs, and my local MP Mr Shane Knuth,

Re: Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

I am writing to express my deep concerns and my objections to the recent education legislation changes (Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024) that have been proposed in our state. As a constituent and a member of the community, I believe it is crucial to voice my objections to the potential impact of these changes on our education system.

My name is Lynda Rocca, I am a home educating parent of 10 years to my two children. Homeschooling my children is very important to me and I have put my own occupation and goals aside until my children have completed their education.

The proposed legislation raises several pressing concerns that I believe need to be addressed:

I oppose the inclusion of the definition of a 'high quality education' being limited to the Australian Curriculum. I find this restrictive and will make it difficult to be able to provide a high quality education in the home learning environment, for children with divergent needs and differing learning styles.

I oppose the changes in the guiding principles of the legislation that state that 'parents have the responsibility for choosing a suitable education environment for their children' and that home education should be provided in a way that 'is in the best interests of the child'. I believe the bill doesn't address who decides what is in the child's best interests and is open to interpretation. I believe this takes away a Queenslanders' right to homeschool and puts onus on the parent to prove they can home educate.

I oppose the removal of provisional registration in the legislation. I believe that provisional registration is a measure to protect families leaving the school in an emergency situation and it is unreasonable for children to stay in potentially dangerous or damaging circumstances until a full plan is written.

I oppose the increased reporting requirements included in the legislation. The information already provided by home educators far exceeds the reporting required by Education Queensland teachers and to provide this information for every single subject is

unreasonable. Including the provision to demonstrate educational progress for each subject also exceeds the requirements for schools and teachers in Queensland and is unacceptable.

Moreover, I am worried about the lack of transparency and public consultation surrounding these changes. As a stakeholder in our education system, I believe it is imperative for the voices of educators, parents, students, and community members to be heard and considered in any decision-making process that impacts our ability to educate our children to the highest standard.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed education legislation and to prioritize the best interests of our rapidly growing and proactive home educating community, including my children. I implore you to advocate for a more inclusive and collaborative approach to policymaking that values input from all stakeholders and ensures the integrity and quality of our education system.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for considering my concerns. I look forward to your response on this important issue.

Sincerely,
Lynda Rocca

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<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-Committees/Committees/Committee-Details?cid=251&id=4389>