

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Re: Changes to homeschooling rules - submission
Date: Monday, 25 March 2024 11:58:01 AM

Dear Education, Employment and Training Committee,

Please accept my submission in-regards to the new bill and homeschooling changes.

I have been a Vocational Training Head Educator and Third-Party Tafe Trainer and Assessor for over 15 years. Last year I had to resign from my current employment to home school my son who was in a state of distress.

My son for the last three years was having intense school refusal episodes that he would try and throw himself out of a car on the way to school. Was chased by the school deputy principal and his friends to get in the classroom. He was in a constant state of fight and flight and so anxious to be at school. Term 3 2023 he starting stuttering on the way to school he was on a Ritalin medication trial for his ADHD that was suppose to make him compliant and happy to be at school but he still had this intense anxiety.

I couldn't do it anymore I called the principal and pulled him out on medical leave while his nervous system calmed down and I waited for another appointment to be available with his Pediatrician it had been a 6 month wait since our first appointment and that was a lucky wait time. This is a crisis situation that many parents are facing. Wrong diagnoses and not the correct medication with parents trying to cope and teachers not equipped to deal with these conditions, as many children mask in school like my son was which made it very hard for the teachers to see the invisible disabilities he had and what he needed.

Later Term 3 we finally got a confirmed diagnose from a Teachers assessment and parent assessment of ASD-2, ADHD, Anxiety and Learning difficulties Dyslexia and Dysgraphia. My son went in for one more week to try and stay in school with the new ASD-2 learning plan. He still couldn't cope. He needs a teacher aide by his side daily to help explain what he needs to do and keep him focused with all the noise and distractions. His teacher often complained they go back to back there is not time to give him what he needs with the current ACRA curriculum. My son was whats the point of going to school when all I hear is "Blah, Blah, Blah all day." I am not learning anything.

My Son has a very sophisticated language for his age of 8, people think he's at least 12 years old. He loves science and is like a walking encyclopaedia and has intense focus to details on areas that he has a strong interest in. His class got sick of hearing about dinosaurs, poodles and opal and would often tell him to shut up.

Term 4 2023 we enrolled into Homeschooling we chose to use the Euka Learning program which is aligned with ACRA as the teachers informed me during our meetings it will be hard to re-enroll without it.

While I enjoy the program my son still finds it very overwhelming. I need to sit with him the whole time to assist and support him with is learning difficulties and disabilities the ACRA curriculum is far too crammed my head spins looking at it. We have QLD primary key-worker educators visit us and help tutor Xavier weekly and they have suggested unschooling him as he learns more through his intense passions and interests at the time. He loves learning his way !

When I informed my sons teachers about his conditions and disabilities that all commented they are not the experts and are limited to the support they can provide with 30 students in the class to one teacher.

20% are following ACRA because maybe their child can keep up with ACRA and they might only be in a temporary situation with plans of returning to main stream schooling when the child catches up or medical conditions subside. I would like to not follow ACRA in Term 2 as I have seen my son flourish following his interests and passions and learning through life. He is much happier within himself and enjoying his new homeschool routine. We have finally at the end of Term 1 found a medication Prozac that works and helps him with his intense anxiety, which is commonly succesfull for ASD-2 conditions.

I would like to commend the Homeschool Community Facebook pages they are so supportive of new homeschoolers have so many files, templates and plans accessible to all to provide a successful high quality learning plan to support your child's needs especially those of disabilities and learning difficulties. They arrange

many social meet ups regularly for all ages and have teachers available for lessons and to support homeschooling queries and concerns and support you through those challenging times. They have made our journey a positive and supportive one, I couldn't have gotten this far without their support.

Kind Regards,

Paige Badenoch

