

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 2064
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Dear Committee

It is with much disappointment that I write to express my strong disagreement to the proposed amendments to the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Bill 2024 for the following reasons as I do not believe defining a high-quality education as being the Australian National Curriculum is relevant nor is it beneficial to my children as well as changes to the registration and regulation process of homeschoolers in QLD.

As a stakeholder in all these changes that will affect homeschoolers, I have not been consulted personally nor have I been given adequate time to respond to these proposed changes. I understand that initial consultations involved Amanda and Patricia in representing homeschoolers' voices but their contribution was *actively excluded* even though they were "included" in the consultation, but for the second round of consultation I was not personally asked who I wanted to represent my behalf seeing that there is no official association of homeschoolers. If the proposed changes are to be in effect, this entire process has completely excluded myself- a homeschooler- as a major stakeholder and our equal & fair representation in the amendment of this act.

During the past 5 years of being registered with the HEU, I have had the privilege of educating my children using the century old method of Montessori education which was developed by Italian medical doctor Dr Maria Montessori who developed her curriculum based on scientific studies of human development. I have loved this child-centred, progressivist philosophy so much that I have studied, trained and worked as a Montessori professional for several years before switching to home educating my 3 children (at that time). Montessori education has in modern times become quite an expensive education due to the nature of the extensive training & materials required to deliver the curriculum. I did not want my children to miss out on what in my opinion is the highest quality, holistic education which is why I chose to home educate them using this method backed with my training reduced the need for private tuition at a Montessori school. Although in 2011, the Montessori National Curriculum was recognised by ACARA as an alternative national curriculum framework to be included on ACARA's Recognition Register, my decision to homeschool using this philosophy was based on my personal experiences as described above and the credibility alone of the over hundred-year-old philosophy itself. It is for this reason that I am strongly opposed to using the National Curriculum in my home as it does not "acknowledge wellbeing, inclusion and diversity" of my children's individual & unique learning styles as stated on the EETS Committee website (<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-Committees/Committees/Committee-Details?cid=251&id=4389>) that the Bill proposes to amend in the same way that my preferred choice curriculum of the Montessori method does. Furthermore, this breaches section 36 of The Human Rights Act 2019 that states that, "Every child has the right to have access to primary and secondary education appropriate to the child's needs", and who better to decide what is to be in the best interest, safety & wellbeing of my children than me the parent rather than unelected bureaucrats, this is of course in addition to my choice of a child-centred method of a Montessori education.

In addition to the above point, the removal of gendered language "to modernise and improve education services" as the purpose of this Bill states and its use in the National Curriculum of which I am proposed to deliver to my children in MY home as prescribed by this Bill is a direct attack on my rights and freedom as a parent to raise & educate my children in my Biblical worldview. I will not be passive nor allow this to happen and hence this expression of outrage and disgust at the proposing of this Bill for this purpose.

As a homeschooler for several years now, I know that the regulation and registration process of home education is already under great stress and not seamless with long turnaround times for any

single response and not being able to speak to anyone directly over the phone at the time of great need, why would the Department of Education want to complicate this process even more particularly for the Home Education Unit. Considering this, it is however, functioning well even at this slow pace so why change anything to do with registration and regulating processes now and create a more difficult process especially if homeschoolers were to report on every subject as per the National Curriculum proposed by the Bill. Also with the amendments in effect, how does the Department of Education propose to train, fund and supply over 10 000 homeschooling parents with adequate resources and knowledge to deliver this curriculum in our homes? Perhaps, it is better to not fix what is not broken. Instead, consider looking at why in the past 4 years there has been a mass exodus of 7000 children who have started homeschooling in QLD alone and furthermore the droves of teachers, some whom I know & met personally, who have left the school system and attest to the ineffectiveness of the curriculum and it's delivery and whom now homeschool their own children using curriculum that is anything but the National Curriculum.

In conclusion, the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 does not serve homeschoolers in general well, let alone me nor my children and their best interest, safety or wellbeing in any shape or form other than violating our rights as parents, let alone humans, to have the best quality of life within our own homes as a family. I strongly urge you to reconsider this proposed Bill considering my submission as one, in addition to many others, representing 10 000+ homeschoolers in Queensland and engage in more consultation with homeschoolers as stakeholders over a longer time frame to come to a more informed decision when making amendments to laws.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,

Cinta Tekwie

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