

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 2089
Submitted by: Stacey Evans
Publication:
Attachments: No attachment
Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed changes to the homeschooling legislation.

Firstly, the requirement to adhere to the national curriculum (ACARA). This part of the proposal is something I cannot support, and this has caused a lot of stress and anxiety for myself knowing that this format would undermine everything my child and I have worked towards in improving their education, mental health and physical health. As a parent homeschooling my son with complex learning difficulties, including Autism, ADHD, Anxiety Disorder, Hypermobility, and other medical challenges affecting his learning. I urge you to consider the importance of maintaining flexible learning environments that cater to the unique needs of each child.

Having transitioned my son from mainstream schooling 6 years ago, where he was struggling and failing to thrive, to a homeschooling environment, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of personalized, interest-driven learning. My son now thrives and enjoys learning.

For a lot of children, mine included, who face various learning challenges, flexibility is not just a preference but a necessity. It is through this flexibility that I can adapt my teaching methods to accommodate his individual learning style and provide the support that he needs to succeed. By tailoring my approach to his interests, I not only keep him engaged but also instil in him a lifelong love for learning.

The proposed changes to mandate a specific curriculum threaten to undermine the very essence of homeschooling – its ability to nurture the unique strengths and talents of each child. By imposing uniform standards, we risk alienating children who do not fit into the conventional mold and depriving them of the opportunity to thrive academically and personally.

As a homeschooling parent deeply committed to my child's education, I implore you to reconsider these proposed regulations.

Secondly, I would like to note as Queensland has NO official home-schooling association, the home-schooling community has had extremely limited representation in the consultation of the amendments to this bill. Without such an association, there was no way for the homeschooling community to be heard. The two people representing “the people” directly, Amanda Bartle & Patricia Fitzgerald, were actively excluded from the second round of consultation. I feel this has resulted in my voice not being represented during that round of consultation.

I would like to clearly re-state that I do not support the proposed amendments to the education bill that has recently been presented to parliament. I urge the committee to reconsider the Bill and the proposed amendments and listen to the home-schooling community.

Sincerely,

Homeschool Parent.