Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by:

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From:

Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee

Subject: Feedback on proposed home schooling changes

Date: Friday, 22 March 2024 8:40:05 PM

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the impending changes to the legislation surrounding Home Schooling in Queensland. As a practicing psychologist based on the Sunshine Coast, I have had the opportunity to work closely with families who have chosen to homeschool their children.

One of the primary issues I wish to address is the proposed withdrawal of provisional registration. Over the course of my practice, I have encountered numerous cases where children have faced severe bullying in traditional school settings, resulting in profound trauma for both the child and their family. In these distressing circumstances, parents often find themselves compelled to withdraw their child from school, sometimes necessitating an immediate response due to the urgency of the situation or the escalation of the child's anxiety levels.

It is my fervent belief that denying these parents a provisional registration period undermines their ability to effectively transition into homeschooling. The process of navigating the complexities of homeschooling, including researching suitable curriculums and educational approaches, requires time and thoughtful consideration. By affording parents this provisional period, we not only provide them with the necessary space to organise themselves but also grant their child the crucial opportunity to embark on their homeschooling journey with a sense of stability and preparedness.

Furthermore, it is essential to acknowledge the immense strain that some of these families already endure. For some families, homeschooling is chosen because the traditional schooling system can not adequately support their child's unique needs, it's not a choice or path they want to go down, rather a last resort as they have exhausted other traditional schooling options. Therefore, I believe that any measures that further burden these families with additional stressors are detrimental and inappropriate.

I implore you to reconsider the withdrawal of provisional registration.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or require further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Warm regards,

Psychologist