

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 2095
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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Submitter Comments:

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)
Subject: Fw: Rejecting proposed legislation
Date: Tuesday, 26 March 2024 9:12:20 AM

Please accept this submission, the email address when I sent it yesterday morning was incorrect.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 25 March 2024 9:26 AM

To: eetsc@parliament.qld.com.au <eetsc@parliament.qld.com.au>

Subject: Rejecting proposed legislation

For the attention of The Committee

Submission

The following outlines my objections to the proposed changes in the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislations Amendment Bill 2024.

I am a mother of four. Two of my children are now young adults and two are young children whom I am currently home educating.

I chose homeschooling for my two youngest children with the aim being for them to retain their joy and enthusiasm for learning and to enjoy their childhood and education.

I chose homeschooling to provide a safe and supportive environment and to protect their mental health and wellbeing.

I chose homeschooling as an extension of respectful parenting practices.

I chose homeschooling to provide my children with a high quality education, rich in opportunities for learning that is interesting and relevant to them.

My children are thriving in their homeschool journey and are motivated, confident and capable learners.

I am completely opposed to the mandatory use of ACARA.

Homeschool does not simply replicate school at home and this is one of its many advantages.

In this age of technology and with so many resources available, I feel that being forced to follow ACARA would be a limitation. My children already have individualised learning plans, adaptable to their emerging interests that I facilitate by providing ample opportunities and resources to develop their skills and knowledge. I have found that this interest led approach has been key to their engagement and retention of learning.

I am aware of ACARA as a resource, however I have found it to be restrictive. It does not work for everyone and can quickly lead to disengaged, bored, anxious and overwhelmed children. My children do not fit into the curriculum and it would be detrimental to their wellbeing.

For my children to realise their full potential, they require continued access to the high quality, individualised education that they are already receiving.

I do not wish for the provisional registration period to be removed.

I have first hand understanding of the importance of this period.

I had not originally intended to homeschool my oldest daughter. When it became necessary to immediately remove her from school at the age of 14, we found that this provided the much needed and appreciated time for the transition from school to home education. School failed to provide a safe environment for both of my older children. As well as the culture of unresolved, systemic bullying that affected both of my older children, when I removed my daughter, then aged 14, EVERY girl in her social circle were self harming by cutting themselves with blades. We knew of several students making suicide attempts including by overdosing and tragically, a female student from this school did later commit suicide. My older son was bullied to the point of severe emotional distress and I was terrified that he would become another statistic. He left in year 10 to protect and restore his mental health.

From my experience and observations, homeschooling provides the calm, safe environment that prevents trauma and mental health issues. I do not think it is advisable to complicate and add stress to families and children who need to leave an unsuitable or unsafe school environment for their wellbeing.

I am concerned about the lack of clarity around ensuring that homeschooling is in the best interest of the child.

I believe that this should remain in the hands of the parents. We understand our children's needs and aptitudes better than anyone else can. Homeschooling is not the easy choice. We homeschool because we have our children's best interests at heart and because we want something better for them.

I am concerned that this bill does not appear to demonstrate an understanding of the benefits of home education as it is currently being provided to homeschooled children.

I urge you to amend the draft legislation by removing the following:

- The reference to the Australian Curriculum

- Changes to provisional registration

- The reference to "high quality education"

- The reference to "best interests of the child"

I also encourage you to consult with ALL home schooling educators before attempting to implement changes that will affect them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

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My personal information is as follows, please redact for publication.

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