

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 2102
Submitted by: The Project Skool
Publication:
Attachments: No attachment
Submitter Comments:



24 March 2024

Committee Secretary
Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Committee Secretary,

Re: Opposition to Proposed Legislation Amending Home Schooling Registration Provisions

As representatives of Project Skool, a specialised tutoring business catering to homeschooled students, we write to express our firm opposition to the proposed legislative changes altering the home schooling registration provisions in Queensland.

Our concerns stem from the significant shortcomings within the proposed bill, notably its one-size-fits-all approach that fails to recognise the diverse needs of homeschooled children and their families. The legislation's lack of provision for alternative learning styles, university pathways, or internationally recognised curriculum programs poses a severe limitation on the educational opportunities available to these children.

Moreover, the proposed bill demonstrates a concerning disregard for the rights of parents to choose the most suitable educational path for their children. By mandating adherence solely to the National Australian Curriculum, families lose the autonomy to tailor their child's education according to their unique learning requirements and aspirations.

It is essential to acknowledge the already high standard of education provided to homeschooled children under existing arrangements. Homeschooling families cherish the flexibility to select curriculums and programs tailored to their child's unique learning needs and interests. This freedom empowers them to explore diverse educational philosophies, draw from a wealth of resources, and even incorporate international curricula recognised for their innovation and effectiveness. By embracing this global perspective, homeschooling families nurture a rich and dynamic educational experience that transcends geographical boundaries, fostering a truly holistic approach to learning. By coercing families into a standardised curriculum, the proposed changes risk diminishing the quality of education and stifling the holistic development of homeschooled children.

Furthermore, we are deeply troubled by the limited and biased consultation process surrounding this legislation. The apparent lack of understanding of the homeschooling community by Di Farmer and the EGPA (Education, Grace Grace Portfolio Additional Estimates Committee) further exacerbates our concerns regarding the proposed changes.

On a personal note, we express profound apprehension regarding the potential increased workload, restrictions, and mental health impacts imposed by the proposed bill. The discriminatory implications against children with disabilities, neurodivergent traits, giftedness, or personal beliefs underscore the urgency of reconsidering the current legislative trajectory. Indeed these are the reasons many of the students attending Project Skool are homeschooled.

In conclusion, we urge the Queensland Parliament to reconsider the proposed changes to the home schooling registration provisions. We stand firmly against any legislation that infringes upon the fundamental rights of parents and compromises the well-being and educational outcomes of homeschooled children.

Thank you for considering our perspective on this matter. We remain hopeful that our concerns will be given due attention and that the interests of homeschooled children and their families will be prioritised in the legislative process.

Yours sincerely,



Kristy Pillinger
Project Skool