

## Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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**Submitted by:** Marisa Bell  
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**To:** [Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [educationand youthjustice@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:educationand youthjustice@ministerial.qld.gov.au); [Moggill Electorate Office](#); [Annastacia Palaszczuk Ministerial](#); [Logan Electorate Office](#)  
**Subject:** Changes to Homeschooling legislation  
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To whom it may concern,

As a homeschooling parent in Queensland, I was dismayed and concerned to read of the recent proposed education legislation changes in our state. I believe it is crucial to voice my concerns about the potential impact that these changes could cause for children in the homeschooling community.

The proposed amendments to the legislation highlight several pressing concerns.

Firstly, due to necessity, the Australian Curriculum is developed for and catered to the 'average grade level student'. This works well for some students, but a growing number of children are outliers. Similarly, the Australian Curriculum, which works well for some homeschooling families, for many families does not provide their children with a high-quality education.

Children with additional learning needs such as ADHD, ADD, ASD and others, struggle to listen, learn or retain information when they are required to study content which they feel is irrelevant or uninteresting to them, resulting in sub-par educational outcomes. Instead these children are given learning opportunities that suit their style of learning, their interests and their fortes resulting in a high-quality education. In this way, they retain the information far better and advance in their understanding of the subject matter. They are more engaged learners with better mental health outcomes when they are pursuing something that lights their fire.

Secondly, I strongly disagree with the proposed changes to enforce parents to complete a homeschooling plan concurrently with the application to homeschool. Parents coming into the homeschooling sphere may initially have a fairly limited knowledge of curriculum available to them, however once they begin to reach out and build connections, they are able to gather a wealth of resources and personal recommendations from longstanding homeschooling veterans. Parents coming from the school system into the homeschooling system need time to research, gather information and resources, seek recommendations and compile a plan for each child. This is an incredibly time consuming and often lengthy process to undertake for the newly recruited homeschooling parent. Often these parents are forced to take their child out of school very quickly, as the student may be suffering from bullying, being ostracized due to poor classroom behaviour, or physical ailments brought on by school anxiety or stress. In these cases, even more so, parents need time to deal with their children's mental health issues before they can begin to rebuild what their learning will look like.

Furthermore, these amendments are being raised without proper consultation with relevant stakeholders such as homeschooling families, multi-age learning co-op leaders, and homeschooling tutors. These stakeholders have the lived experiences and insight that are crucial to the consultation process in order to

shape policies that are inclusive, relevant and beneficial to all students and families.

Additionally, these proposed changes to the legislation appear to concentrate on mandating that all students learn under a standardised curriculum, while completely missing the core issue which needs to be addressed: Why are so many families leaving the school system? Once this and other questions are thoroughly examined and extricated, then a true consultation process can begin. Enforcing inflexible curriculum requirements does not delve into the underlying reasons why a large number of families choose to educate their child at home, nor does it promote an individualised learning program for each student, it merely causes further difficulties and limitations for children who do not fit into a standardised-student box.

At the core of homeschooling is the desire to provide the absolute best for one's child. As the people who know their child better than anybody else, parents understand what's going to dull them and crush their spirits, and they know what's going to enlarge and expand their child's future. The focus should not be on mandating that a whole bunch of boxes are ticked regardless of whether that benefits or disadvantages the child, but rather on equipping parents to provide the best-quality education for their child by providing varied options and genuine support according to each child as an individual.

Yours sincerely,  
M. Bell