



Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice

16 MAY 2024

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Email: tableoffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Neil', written over the name 'Mr Laurie'.

Thank you for your letter dated 18 April 2024 regarding Petition No. 4048-24 in relation to proposed reforms for the regulation of home education in the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 (the Bill).

The Queensland Government is committed to supporting high-quality education for all Queensland children and young people.

The review of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* (the Act), which sets out the regulatory framework for home education in Queensland, commenced in 2021.

The review of the Act included stakeholder consultation across two major stages in 2022 and 2023. The review was informed by a Steering Committee, comprising representatives from the Department of Education, the Queensland Teachers' Union, the Independent Education Union, Queensland Treasury, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and, for cross-sectoral matters, the Queensland Catholic Education Commission and Independent Schools Queensland.

Stage One (2022) saw broad consultation with the issuing of 11 consultation papers to stakeholders to identify, examine and refine potential policy options, including in relation to home education amendments. Stage Two (2023) saw targeted consultation using an Exposure Draft of certain amendments and Policy Fact Sheets on all policy options.

To ensure diverse interests were represented, consultation included key education stakeholders, unions, government departments and statutory agencies, home education parents (Stage One), home education representative groups (Stages One and Two), principals' associations, state and non-state school associations and peak bodies, disability, youth and legal advocacy groups, First Nations advocacy groups and the early childhood sector.

On 15 April 2024, I announced that reforms proposed in the Bill relating to home education regulation would not proceed. I also announced that a home education advisory group will be established to provide a forum to share with and learn from the home educating parent community to better understand their experiences of home education in Queensland. Additionally, a review of Queensland's approach to regulating home education will be undertaken, informed by stakeholder perspectives.

The Government respects the right of parents to home school their children and will explore how existing regulatory services can be improved and parents supported, so that children and young people access a high-quality education.

I would like to thank the sponsoring Member, the principal petitioner and every person who signed the petition for their advocacy of home education in Queensland and look forward to consolidating an enduring engagement with the home education sector.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DI Farmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "F".

DI FARMER MP
Minister for Education and
Minister for Youth Justice

Ref: 24/331408; M1275

Your Ref: A1266251