

I am a recipient of a grandfathered parenting payment single pension.

I have an eight year old daughter whom I home educate full time and as such I may be directly affected by the changes proposed in this Bill.

I take my decision to home education my child very seriously and believe very strongly, based on my own experience and much research that the home environment is the best environment for her to learn and that I am the best person to teach and care for her. This is a full time role, as her father works full time. It is also a role with very little financial reward. However, I believe that the investment of time and energy that I put into this role now will result in her growing into the most healthy and productive adult that she can be.

Before making the decision to home educate full time I worked full time as a solicitor and then studied full time, putting her in kindergarten. I found that this situation was very damaging for my child and was reflected in her behavior and health. I chose to take responsibility and bring her back into my care rather than go down the road of seeking a diagnoses for these behavioural difficulties so that she could fit into the school environment. Now my child is extremely healthy and happy and is developing in a physically and emotionally supportive environment and manner. I dearly miss the benefits that working full time provides in terms of financial benefits, however I do not know how to provide for my child's needs and do this at the same time, whilst her father works full time.

I urge the decision makers in this instance to consider the matter from a holistic and long term point of view. I am seeking practical support and recognition that the role of "mother" or the primary care giver is important and has long term benefits to society. From my perspective I can see that the best way to ensure the health and productivity of our future generations is to support their primary care givers now.

I am currently in receipt of the parenting payment in order to allow me to home educate my child and that is a cost to the government of approximately \$16,600 per year. However my child is not in school, saving the government at least \$7,000 per year now, even if she did not require extra resources for a special needs child and at least \$12,000 when she is high school aged. Moreover, in addition to this, she is a lot healthier than she would be in school, both physically and emotionally and i am sure that over the long term will be a much healthier and productive adult that she would be than if i was forced to go to work and she was forced to go to school. School is an environment that is not healthy for her and will have a negative effect on her and the society that she is a part of, in the long run.

I am extremely grateful for the freedom that we enjoy in Australia to make choices in relation to the best interests of our children regarding their education. I feel that this freedom is in line with the guiding principles of the state based Education General Provision Act 2000 (Qld) which applies to me as a resident of Queensland. This act gives parents the responsibility of choosing the appropriate educational environment for their children. This bill, although still allowing me this freedom in philosophical terms would practically deny it.

For two parent families, the decision to home-educate is a difficult one financially, for single parent families, as things stand at the moment, it

takes such huge sacrifices as to seem impossible much of the time. My daughter and I live with an extremely challenging financial situation that nevertheless feels worth it as nothing is more important to me than the physical and emotional health of my child. At the moment, we are unable to afford to pay market rent as well as maintain a healthy standard of living. We are lucky in that we are presently able to stay with friends who do not require us to pay market rent and are therefore able to relieve the financial pressure a little although there is very little safety and security in this situation. The proposed changes will increase the financial pressure that we already feel so acutely and put me in the situation of needing to put my child into a situation which I know will be damaging for her. I am not sure where the breaking point is. I dearly wish to continue to give my child a quality and safe education and request continued support to be able to do so.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted]