



MEDIA CALL - 10am Tuesday, 16th April 2024

**HOMESCHOOLERS TO HOST A PICNIC
OUTSIDE QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY 16th APRIL, 11am-1pm**

Representatives from Queensland's homeschooling community will hold a **Picnic at Parliament House Tuesday 16th of April from 11am-1pm.**

Hundreds of homeschooling families are expected to gather for a peaceful picnic "sit in," coordinated by the [#Free2Homeschool](#) grassroots advocacy platform.

The event was originally due to be a rally expressing concern about proposed changes impacting homeschooling, put forward by Labor's [Education \(General Provisions\) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill](#). Yet, organisers now say it will pivot to mark Monday's announcement from Minister for Education, Di Farmer MP that, following widespread community concern, the homeschooling sections of the Bill will be withdrawn.

"It is encouraging that our MPs are listening and engaging with us about this," said Campaign Director, Amanda Bartle. "The community welcomes the long overdue commitment to establish a Home School Advisory Group. This will ensure future consultation is representative of our true community values."

"In just a few short weeks since the Bill was presented in parliament, we have seen [1200 submissions](#) published, we have gathered over 22,000 signatures on our [parliamentary petition](#) and an endless stream of emails have been sent to MPs all over Queensland voicing our concerns." Bartle goes on to explain. "There have been over 20 representatives voicing valid objections to the Bill before the committee - including leading homeschool researcher and academic, Dr Rebecca English."

Long time homeschool advocate and Campaign Manager, Patricia Fitzgerald, can testify to the fact that "Queensland Home Educators want to ensure they are recognised, supported, and are consulted appropriately, so that any legislation reflects the actual needs of home education in the community. We are pleased to see the removal of the Australian Curriculum and the more onerous reporting requirements."

"We have welcomed the questions put to the Department of Education by the Committee" says #Free2Homeschool Campaign Advisor, Hilary Uhr. "We are, however, concerned that the new guiding principle has been retained, and we look forward to speaking with the Minister about fair application of a 'best interests of the child' principle", she said.

On their social platforms, the #Free2Homeschool Campaign thanks Queensland State representatives for heeding the voices of their over 10,000 homeschooling constituents, asking for them to maintain the registration, application and reporting framework already in place which allows children to flourish with individualised approaches and not to limit the learning opportunities of our children.

MEDIA CALL:

- **Members of the media are invited to attend the rally with doorstep interview opportunities with campaign coordinators available from 10am-11am.**
- **Group photo options will be made available at 11.30am which will enable those who do not wish for their children's images to be released to step aside.**
- **Enquiries: Liaison Officer - Cath Toomey | 0415 397 618 | info@free2homeschool.org**

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SUPPORTING CONTENT:

- Facebook – www.facebook.com/free2homeschoolnow
 - Homeschooled kids speak out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrZvYClEY-M&t=7s>
 - Parliamentary Petition - <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Petitions/Petition-Details?id=4048>
 - Proposed Legislative Amendments - <https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/bill.first/bill-2022-052>
 - Submissions Published to date - [Committee Details | Queensland Parliament](#)
 - Rally Preparation by Families - <https://youtube.com/shorts/GsCttAw7Gdk?feature=share>
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