

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Legislation](#)
Subject: Public submission in relation to proposed changes to Education Act
Date: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 10:57:00 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern

In the suggested amendments to the Education Act 2016, following the Review of Education Regulation, this addition has been made, under section

4. Principles which are basis of Act

(1A) In addition to the principles set out in subsection (1), the following principles are to be taken into consideration by the Registrar and Registration Board:

(a) in performing their functions and powers, the Registrar and Registration Board must consider the welfare and **best interests** of students to be of paramount importance.

While I am happy with the word welfare, and would be with wellbeing, I am not comfortable with the term **best interests**. This is a very non-specific term that has the potential to be used for control and manipulation. Who gets to decide what is in the child's best interests? What if the government decides that it is in the child's best interests if they, or their parents, are vaccinated and instructs the Registrar to take this into consideration? Could it have the potential to lead to a 'no jab, no registration' policy? I would be more comfortable if this phrase were changed to wellbeing or eliminated altogether. If the child's welfare is being considered, does the phrase 'best interests' need to be there at all? It seems tautologous. The principles of the Education Act must respect the authority of parents and must not breach the Privacy Act, Biosecurity Act or United Nations Charter of Human Rights.

Thank you for your consideration,

Fiona Lohrbacher, Home Educating Parent