

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

1/ "improving procedural fairness for decision-making processes for school disciplinary absences" does not take into consideration the context and people involved, background etc. 2/ "introducing a new appeal right for accumulated short suspensions" implies a distrust in schools, administrators and teachers. Schools know their students, schools are committed to obtaining and keeping a safe environment for ALL their students; why is the government insistent on making this harder? Why are schools losing more and more rights and control measures to enforce rules and safety? 3/ "ensuring a student has access to education pending an enrolment decision" - having access to, and being mandated to, are different. Sometimes the best thing for some students as young as year 8 and 9 is to go and do 6 or 12 months of work and then potentially return to school should they choose. School is not the only place for students, and the government is doing some (yes, a minority) students a major disservice by mandating them to be at school until year 10. When you force a student to be there who would much rather be out at work or tafe, they create major disruptions and prevent teachers being able to properly extend the students that do want to be further educated. 4/ "removing the use of gendered language" by catering to an extreme minority, you are in fact excluding the large majority. The government talks about inclusivity yet are slowly excluding girls and boys. This will be seen in the community as the government encouraging gender/identity crisis in students and will be detrimental to your reputation and trust. This is already such a divisive issue that is not being taken well in other countries, why would you even want to bring it into Australia? If you really want to improve educational outcomes - look at the curriculum. Make it relevant. As an Accounting teacher, I cannot tell you enough how disappointing students don't leave knowing what they can or can't claim on a personal tax return. Or that students don't know how to start their own business. The curriculum is so dry, students don't want to learn it and you have valuable experienced teachers leaving because they don't want to teach it. Maybe, just maybe, giving teachers more time to plan and prepare for their lessons and engaging teaching methods may also encourage more students to attend school, engage and lower youth crime rates.