

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 948
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Publication:
Attachments: No attachment
Submitter Comments:

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 2:01 PM
To: Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee
Cc: hello@arighttolearn.com.au
Subject: Submission on the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Attn: Committee Secretary - Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee

Dear Committee Secretary

I write to make a submission on the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.

As a disability advocate, I want to share with the Committee my experiences and why I believe that all students with disability deserve access to a fair and equal education.

I have witnessed the school that my children attend, Alligator Creek State School showing some wonderful examples of inclusive education and assisting students and parents along their schooling journey. One child in the school that is hearing impaired has an interpreter attend class, school parades, morning messages and other school activities so he is not excluded from these events. This is not only a wonderful example of inclusive education for the student but this also shows the other children in the school about being inclusive and opens up more learning opportunities for all students. I have witnessed teachers and students taking time each day to learn some Ausland (eg. Hello, Thank-you, Teacher, I am sad, I am happy ect) This has also developed into an Ausland Club being established where students can attend one lunch time a week for additional learning.

These experiences have led me to support the A Right to Learn campaign, which is focused on keeping disabled students in the classroom.

I strongly endorse the campaign's five asks in response to the Bill, including:

- 1: Using suspension as a last resort. I agree with the Disability Royal Commission recommendation that school suspensions should be a last resort or to prevent 'serious harm'.
- 2: Currently, the Bill only allows an appeal when a student has been suspended for 11 days or more in a year. I believe that there should be appeal rights for all suspensions, regardless of the number of days.
- 3: The implementation of a multi-tiered support system. Children experiencing multiple suspensions require support through a multi-tiered system to address their needs effectively.
- 4: I support the need for increased transparency and accountability in schools regarding efforts to reduce suspensions, such as submitting an annual report to Parliament, establishing a Board to oversee suspensions, and implementing scorecards for schools.
- 5: To include a Students Rights section in the Bill to enshrine the right to learn for all Queensland students.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to make a submission on the Bill.

Yours sincerely,
Melissa Martin

[REDACTED]

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Please reply to Melissa Martin at [REDACTED]

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