

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by: Capricorn Community Development Association

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Kelly Tremlett

From: Sandy Paton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 4:24 PM
To: Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee
Cc: [REDACTED]
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 am writing on behalf of the Capricorn Community Development Association (CCDA) to highlight our very strong support for the Right to Learn campaign.

CCDA is a regional, independent, non-funded, incorporated community organisation that facilitates community to find solutions to its challenges. Its membership (around 900) includes individuals and organisations from across the broad range of the human services sector. We provide a place-based voice for this region with local, state and federal governments and other strategic agencies and organisations.

As a Community Development organisation our statement of purpose is: "To assist the community solve its own problems". For a community to achieve the outcomes it desires for itself, it must respect all its citizens and protect the vulnerable. This includes keeping disabled students in the classroom. It is the only way we can support young people to reach their full potential and contribute to the rich diversity of their community.

CCDA fully respects the capacity of those negatively effected by the current education system, to speak for themselves.

However as a community development organisation we would like to show our support for them, by strongly endorsing the campaign's five asks in response to the Bill, including:

1: Using suspension as a last resort. CCDA endorses the Disability Royal Commission recommendation that school suspensions should be a last resort or to prevent 'serious harm'. The more vulnerable a person is, the more they need a community to wrap around them.

2: Currently, the Bill only allows an appeal when a student has been suspended for 11 days or more in a year. CCDA supports appeal rights for all suspensions, irrespective of the number of days. Even short suspensions can have a dramatic effect on the future capacity of children to be able to develop and thrive in a school community - and, on the way they feel about themselves. We want thriving, well-adjusted young people - let us support not punish.

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. CCDA welcomes any effective approach that can provide support.

4: CCDA enthusiastically backs 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: CCDA also strongly supports the inclusion 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,
Sandy Paton
President
Capricorn Community Development Association (CCDA)
[REDACTED]

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