

## Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 960  
**Submitted by:** Ainsley Robertson  
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## Kelly Tremlett

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 March 2024 9:00 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 write to make a submission on the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.

As a PARENT WITH A DISABLED STUDENT and a person who works in a role supporting families with inclusive education 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 speak to parents daily who deeply concerned for their distressed child with disability who has been suspended or expelled from school. Some are as young as 5 years old.

Parents tell me about children who as a result of disciplinary actions are self harming, have very low self esteem, have lost a love of learning, are socially isolated. Parents are often losing jobs and much needed income.

Teachers need support and training in providing inclusive reasonable adjustments, in using neuroaffirming strategies and in inclusive education. It is not the children who are at fault it is the failing of our education system and teacher training.

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,  
Ainsley Robertson

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