

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by: Jo McCarthy
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Kelly Tremlett

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 22 March 2024 11:51 AM
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 PARENT WITH A DISABLED STUDENT, 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.

My child with ASD Level 1, gave up on schooling in year 9 as the response to bullying from other students was to exclude my child from the playground. He was not supported to attend excursions or camps and despite being supported with strategies; the school had no interest in using these strategies. When he physically responded to the bullying, he was suspended, not the student/s who instigated the event.

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,
Jo McCarthy

[REDACTED]

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Please reply to Jo McCarthy at [REDACTED]

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