

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 22 March 2024 12:06 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 Disabled lifelong learner, and former primary and secondary student, it is important I share my experiences with the Committee, and to affirm to it that all students with disability deserve access to a fair and equal education.

As a student with autism, dyspraxia, and a learning disability, my needs were not met by the education system, and advocating for my right to an education was treated as though it were disrespectful. I was subjected to illegal corporal punishment, cruel and unjustifiable isolation and restraint, and unreasonable loss of class attendance in the name of "discipline".

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.

With sincere regards,
Maria Scharnke

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Please reply to Maria Scharnke at [REDACTED]

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