

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 22 March 2024 12:13 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 concerned citizen, I want to share with the Committee my why I believe that all students with disability deserve access to a fair and equal education.

After hearing several stories regarding children with disability being openly discriminated against by teachers and schools that seem ill-prepared and unwilling to help them, I feel that more attention and support is required to understand and provide a safe environment for these children to thrive.

Their 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,
Nick Shirlaw

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