

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

**Submission No:** 2078  
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[REDACTED]

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**From:** Christine Roney [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 March 2024 10:20 AM  
**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 result of my experience as Magistrate, I am aware that the single greatest trigger for antisocial behavior is disengagement from education.

Similarly, the greatest protective factor, in my opinion, for prosocial behaviour is school attendance in whatever form school takes.

Further it seems to me that the circumstances of a child's suspension/exclusion are frequently arbitrary and poorly investigated.

This then leads to resentment and further diminishes the likelihood of a return to school.

In my view schools should manage the behaviour on the same school campus but in a separate unit or building, excluded from the mainstream school population.

Those students should undertake school with a designated support team.

It should not be a punitive environment but a respite solution while the issue is investigated.

It should not be lost on any elected person that teenage suicide is occurring at unprecedented levels.

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,

Christine Roney

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Please reply to Christine Roney at [REDACTED].

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