

SOS

Save our Seton Media Release

Friday November 20th 2020

ONE IN FIVE AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN ARE DYSLEXIC, YET BRISBANE CATHOLIC EDUCATION SHUTS DOWN SCHOOL EQUIPPED TO HELP THOSE WITH DIFFERENT LEARNING NEEDS.

A Current Affair news program (Channel 9) recently aired a story on the struggle children with dyslexia face learning to read and write. It is estimated that one in five Australian children live with dyslexia, a neurological condition characterised by difficulties with accurate and fluent reading, writing, and spelling. There is no cure for dyslexia, but the person may benefit from specialised support, particularly with early intervention.

Brisbane Catholic Education's (BCE) Seton College, in Brisbane's south, is one school that has managed to provide supportive, personalised learning to help those children that floundered in the mainstream system. The college offers individual learning plans based on each child's needs and learning style and has become extremely popular with parents whose children 'didn't fit' the traditional models of schooling. Seton College places a high value on a child's social and emotional development, recognising that each student needs to feel safe and valued, and their confidence nurtured, in order to learn best. The College is often quoted as being "the only option" by parents of children who had negative experiences in the mainstream system, such as bullying, anxiety, and low self-esteem, which are all issues associated with dyslexic children who are not provided with the support they need.

Seton College is unique in its mission – to educate ANY child in a way that works for them, regardless of ability or disability. So, it came as a shock to parents when the college announced they would be closing the facility some time in the next four years. Community members are struggling to understand the motive behind the closure, as BCE have stated "a decline in enrolments" to be the reason, and yet each week more and more stories are presented about children slipping through the cracks in mainstream schools, simply because they have a different set of needs. Parents are at a loss of where to send their children to school if Seton College does not remain open, with most of them already having tried the mainstream school system, many of them with heart breaking consequences. "My daughter would literally jump out of a moving car on the way to her mainstream school, just so she didn't have to go," one parent said, "but at Seton she's happy, she feels like she belongs".

The Save our Seton (SOS) campaign is seeking the real truth behind the reasons for the closure, as they believe they have not been told the full story and are committed to keeping the school open for those children who need a different approach to education. Pledges of

support are coming in from all across Australia to keep Seton College open with supporters saying “there needs to be more schools like Seton, not less”, “all the students are feeling very let down and insecure about their future”, “for some students a fully inclusive educational experience is in a school like Seton College” and “Brisbane desperately needs to keep a school like this that bridges the gap between mainstream and special schools.”

To have your say and to pledge your support please go to www.saveourseton.org

For media enquiries please contact saveourseton@gmail.com

Why should we keep
Seton College open?

**"It is only a small school
but it is making a BIG difference."**

- Grandparent of a current student

**Please help us!
Pledge your support at
www.saveourseton.org**