

SOS
Save our Seton Media Release
Tuesday 20th October 2020

**ROYAL COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR NATIONAL ACTION PLAN
FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION. SOS HAVE THE SOLUTION.**

Last week saw Public Hearing 7 of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with a Disability. The hearing focussed heavily on the need for safe, quality, and inclusive education practices in mainstream schools, noting that there is no Australian jurisdiction that has successfully implemented inclusive education in all mainstream schools.

Experts called on during the Royal Commission stated, “fundamental reform of the school system is required,” and “will involve long-term planning and the allocation of considerable resources.” The Commission discussed the key barriers to inclusive education as being restrictive practices, inadequate adjustments and support, the impact of bullying, use of suspension and informal exclusion, and the need for better teacher training.

The parents and families of Seton College in Brisbane are outspoken in their opinion of the college already being one that is fully inclusive and are baffled at Brisbane Catholic Education’s (BCE) recent decision to close the facility. The student body at Seton College is made up of a varied mix of students with disabilities and without disabilities, students who wish to follow a vocational path, students who chose the college for its faith-based ethos, and students who simply live in the school’s catchment area. Every child has their own individualised learning plan, along with extensive ‘Pathway Planning’ and support to prepare them for life after school. Seton College families say what they most value of the Seton inclusive model is the holistic education of each child, which focusses heavily on their social and emotional development.

The Save Our Seton campaign would like to see BCE extend this educational model that works so well at Seton College to more facilities across Brisbane. SOS members say they are grateful to be part of the Seton community, and feel that every child in Australia would benefit from an inclusive education model like the one successfully delivered every day by BCE staff at Seton College.

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