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To the Committee Secretary, Community Affairs Committee,

I write to strongly support changing the law so that social security and other welfare payments are suspended if a child does not attend school.

The suspended payment(s) should apply to the child (where appropriate) and to the parent (where appropriate).

The concept of mutual obligation is a sound one- the community through the taxation and welfare system supports members of the community and in return there should be an expectation that the recipient will act as a responsible citizen, fulfilling the obligation in regard to compulsory education in this country.

The provisions should apply to all Australians regardless of race, creed etc.

For too long many of our school age children have been missing out on an essential education which will give them a chance to achieve their full potential.

To not attend school or to allow non attendance to continue is a form of child abuse and must not continue.

Non-participation in education has particularly disadvantaged our Indigenous children as well as others (lower socio economic group members) and therefore the ability to withhold social security payments is the right and proper approach to adopt.

Governments and the wider community cannot allow a significant number of our most vulnerable citizens to miss out on their basic right to an education.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Such MP JP  
**Member for Fisher.**