

Education (General Provisions) (Helping Families with School Costs) Amendment Bill 2023

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Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Employment and Training Committee](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED] Submission to Inquiry into Education (General Provisions) (Helping Families with School Costs) Amendment Bill 2023
Date: Friday, 3 November 2023 10:47:49 AM

Dear Members of the Inquiry,

I write to strongly support the Education (General Provisions) (Helping Families with School Costs) Amendment Bill 2023. As a proud product of Queensland's public education system, I have experienced firsthand the transformative power of quality public education. However, I've also witnessed the disturbing and growing trench between public and private school funding.

My journey through a Queensland state high school was eye-opening. It was a place where my dreams could become a reality. I had dedicated teachers that genuinely cared about my education, and their guidance led me towards a brighter future. I had access to opportunities, and being able to take them enriched my life in unimaginable ways.

These opportunities paved the way for me to win a scholarship, which allowed me to study abroad in Italy. This experience broadened my horizons and changed the way I think about the world. It set me on the path to completing two university degrees in Queensland and a successful career, with outcomes like an OP2 and a thriving professional life; admittedly one in which almost all of my colleagues come from private school backgrounds. **I am fully aware that my story is not the typical story of public education in Queensland.**

Today, state schools face even greater challenges, and the dream of success is frankly not possible for many. I truly believe that my story would be out of reach to me if I was attending a Queensland state high school today. We have a duty to act to address the glaring disparity between public and private school funding.

Today, while public schools cater to the majority of Queensland's students, Private schools in Queensland receive, on average, more than double the funding per student. This is the very antithesis to the idea that every person in Queensland gets a fair go.

It's disheartening to know that students from disadvantaged backgrounds will face additional out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extracurricular activities, and school resources that put their educational experience during crucial years at a significant disadvantage. The proposed changes in the bill to make state education genuinely free, provide 100% of minimum needs funding, and support students with these extra costs are a sorely needed step in the right direction.

It's time to give the children of Queensland a fair go. There is no such thing as a bad kid, only bad outcomes. Any student that wants to work hard, earn an education, and contribute to Queensland's future, should be given the chance to in our state.

I urge you to support the Education (General Provisions) (Helping Families with School Costs) Amendment Bill 2023. The next generation deserves the opportunity from us to achieve their dreams, just as I did.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]