

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

Submission No: 9
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Attachments:

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From: [Fiona Bergin](#)
To: [Education, Employment and Training Committee](#)
Subject: Submission to the Committee: inquiry into state school costs and funding.
Date: Thursday, 9 November 2023 4:09:32 PM

Dear Education, Employment, and Training,

My husband and I have three children enrolled in a large Brisbane State high school. The fact that Qld state schools are among the poorest in the country comes as no surprise to us. We are aware of how private schools operate in our local area and the comparison with our own school is simply appalling.

And of course, so are the outcomes for our kids. Our school can't even fund basic science experiments, so they watch a video instead. I have seen academic results of state schools, both primary and secondary, in our local area in Brisbane drop markedly over the past 10 years, while academic results for private schools in the area have risen sharply. The QCAA curriculum is stripped down to bare bones at our public schools, simply because of a lack of resourcing.

It certainly is no longer the case that your postcode determines your kid's education outcomes, at least not if they attend a public school.

About five years ago, our school changed from four to three lessons a week for English and Maths from 7 to 12 - all private schools in our area still provide four. And people wonder why our results are woeful.

OECD Pisa results for Australia have been declining for over a decade, to think that among the reasons for this result is the fact that Qld is leading the charge in mediocre, under-funded public education, is simply outrageous, especially given the wealth of this state.

The kids that do well at schools like ours are either very smart/gifted or have engaged, supportive parents who fund private tuition outside school hours. Everyone else is doomed to never fully realise their potential and often internalise low self-esteem about learning.

And all this under a Labor government who should be championing public education. It's depressing and shameful.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Bergin


