

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

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As a retired Qld State School teacher I have always taken an intense interest in the way our schools have worked and I have been angered and disappointed to see funding going into wealthy schools while small, underfunded schools in low socio-economic districts continue to suffer.

In 1983 I was fortunate enough to take an Exchange with a SA teacher and was stunned by the amount of support available to teachers in that system. The Qld system at the time was extremely pinched for supplies of consumables for the classroom. There was a dearth of teacher enhancement and opportunity to update credentials. I hope things are much better now.

My submission to this enquiry is that every child in every school, state and private, is funded to a certain, common degree. Funding beyond this amount is given ONLY to those schools or children whose needs are not met by this funding. This means that Cunnamulla State School might get more than Kenmore State School. It may even mean that the rare, poor private school gets some extra funding. It also means that wealthy private schools get the minimum and no more.

Instead of building jails it is far better to build public schools, education facilities and opportunities for job training for those who have constrained economic resources.

Conclusion: for the sake of social equity, social cohesion, and equity of educational outcomes the Government must fully fund State Schools and all public educational opportunities.

Judy Hardy-Holden

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