

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

Submission No: 14
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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Attachments:

Submitter Comments:

My biggest concern with State School funding is the lack of realistic funding for inclusive education, meaning behaviour management issues in the classroom, disruption to learning, and safety concerns. This spreads the trauma and then more families must pay for the fall out from school-induced psychological harm. Last year, my then-7 year old son was in a constantly disrupted classroom where desks and chairs were thrown in anger, the class was frequently evacuated, a window was smashed and children were injured. This situation continued this year and is ongoing. Some children became fearful of school and had nightmares. My son learnt about anger and violence and replicated challenging behaviours, resulting in a long wait for psychology and hundreds of dollars of out-of-pocket expense to date. We have no NDIS funding and this is an ongoing expense. My suggestion would be to proactively provide enough support or alternative options for complex-needs children so they are supported to learn while keeping everyone else safe, and containing the trauma. My second concern with school funding is that teachers are expected to spend their own money on supplies for the classroom, with limited access to school funding. This puts pressure on the teachers to either provide from their own pockets or children miss out, provoking a sense of guilt and resentment. This contributes to teacher burnout and demotivation in a profession that is already experiencing a shortage. I am happy to contribute to school expenses where I can, paying for the required books, uniforms, and supplies, contributing to P&C fundraising etc as part of the school community. The bigger issues listed above, stemming from an apparent disconnect between policy/management and the classroom, are my areas of concern.