

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

Submission No: 19
Submitted by: Roy Hives
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Attachments:

Submitter Comments:

Dear Education, Employment, and Training Committee People are poor. It was true 20 years ago, when I taught in an Ipswich school, and it's only got worse since. Parents are bombarded with demands for extra money. "You don't have to pay, but you have to beg, to justify not paying!" People don't want to think of themselves as bad parents. They pay up, whatever the cost to their family.. This 'user pays' extortion championed by the conservatives should be anathema to a Labor government. On the teaching front, there are not enough teachers. Class sizes are too big. Politicians took fright when they realised that smaller class sizes meant more classrooms! Cost cutting and control of teachers has been the focus, Experienced teachers were paid to leave! The focus has not been on the children. Not on the quality of the education provided. And every year, those responsible complain about the quality of the teachers! We abolished a lot of the special schools, against the wishes of the parents. Integration was supposed to be socially-preferable. We were assured that schools would get 'extra' funding to deal with the extra need. You know how that went. I was teaching mathematics. My school Principal decreed that maths textbooks were not to be provided for the students. I said I could get them for free. No dice. I asked why. I was told teachers are lazy, and that they must prepare handouts for the kids. Perhaps that was just covering for a shortage of money? Of course, the photocopier money ran out very early in the year. Parents who were paying attention would have wanted to buy their children textbooks, but they're very expensive! I'm curious why we think it's a good idea to have a Budget Surplus. Is it money not spent, or is it being spent somewhere else? If not spent, why not spend it, bearing in mind the federal government will use it to fend off your requests for extra money

