

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

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Attachments:

Submitter Comments:

Public state schools are meant to be free and universally accessible. The Gonski Review's Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) gives an estimate of how much total public funding a school needs to meet its students' educational needs. Funding for Queensland state schools is falling short of this SRS by \$1.7 billion every year; our government reported a \$12 billion surplus at the last budget, so I'm advocating for spending a fraction of this surplus to fully fund our state schools. Right now Queensland state schools are being underfunded causing carers of students to pay out-of-pocket expenses and resource costs every year. In this environment of underfunding, public sector teachers are being burnt out and there is a projected shortfall of teachers. I support the government's funding for teaching scholarships starting in 2024, however this needs to be combined with systemic improvements in support and resources for teachers already working in the public sector. Teachers need improved support, especially classes with high-needs students. I don't want to see the next generation of students face a hollowed-out public school sector, as the private school system is not an answer; the solution I want to see is a strengthened public school system for current and future students in Queensland. The school funding agreement between the state and federal governments is just about to be re-negotiated for the next five years. This is a great opportunity to reset and fully fund our public schools.