

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

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Submitted by: West End State School P&C
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Attachments:

Submitter Comments:

On behalf of the P&C of West End State School Under the current Bilateral Agreement, the Queensland Government and Federal Government provide 69% and 20% of the SRS respectively (Commonwealth of Australia and State of Queensland, Bilateral Agreement Between Queensland and the Commonwealth on Implementation of School Education Reform). Therefore, as we understand, the annual shortfall in funding required for Queensland state schools to meet the minimum educational needs of their students is estimated to be \$1.7 billion in 2023 (Australian Education Union, Investing in Australia's Future). This is an 11% shortfall for Queensland students. Based on data from the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, and adjusting for inflation, the approximate funding shortfall for West End State School in 2021 was \$1.9 million. This means parents had to contribute an average \$473 per student in fees. As a P&C, we are seeing firsthand how this is affecting families and our community. In 2023, WESS we have seen a 400% increase in requests from families for financial assistance (compared with 2022) to pay for basic requirements such as books, resources and curriculum-based excursions, because families are feeling the pinch. Our organisation has many volunteers who work tirelessly to raise funds to support our students, however we are seeing an unprecedented need for that money to pay for things which should be basic and compulsory inclusions out of the state education budget. West End State School P&C implores you to prioritise education, and take the opportunity that this review provides to get the funding right so that Queensland kids don't fall behind their peers in Australia, and across the world.