

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

**Submission No:** 33  
**Submitted by:** harry johnson  
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### Attachments:

### Submitter Comments:

I am now 80 years old and was educated in the State School system in England before I migrated to Australia in 1965 and then lived in Queensland from 1966 to 2012 before moving to NSW after I retired. My 2 children were educated in Petrie Primary School and at Pine Rivers High School and my 2 grandchildren have just started their Primary School education at a State Primary School in Brisbane. I have always been a great supporter of State School education. In the late 1960s I received a 2 year Primary School scholarship at Kelvin Grove Teachers' College, taught in one State Primary School in Queensland and State Special Schools until I retired from teaching in 2008. My final teaching post was at Aspley Senior Special School where I was appointed as Pre-Vocational teacher at the school's inception in 1974. There is 1 area in which I believe there is an urgent need to more prudently use taxpayer contributions for State School education. During my 2 year teacher training course very little time was allocated to actually being in the classroom setting. I was fortunate to be allocated to a well-resourced city for my 'prac school' training- the in-school component of my teacher training. I just survived my first class of 38 Grade 4 Students without a teacher aide, but only just. Today there is a huge loss of teacher numbers during the first few years of teachers' careers. I believe it would be extremely beneficial for trainee teachers to spend far more time in the classroom during their first year of teacher training, working in the classroom performing tasks along the lines of those performed by teacher aides. I believe such a change of emphasis during teacher training courses would help cut this early drop-out of potential future teachers. Another aspect that greatly concerns me is how taxpayer contributions are used to fund Private Schools. I accept that those taxpayers who can afford to send their children to Private Schools are free to choose to do so. What greatly disturbs me is the amount of taxpayer contributions allocated to fund Private Schools, paid for by those taxpayers that who cannot afford to send their children to Private Schools. High income earners are in a good position to utilise methods that enable them to minimise the amount of income tax they pay. However very few taxpayers who pay low levels of income tax have less capability to minimise the amount of income tax they pay. Today none of Australia's 3 major political parties see any unfairness in forcing low income taxpayers to subsidise Private School education. I fail to see the value to Australian citizens of continuing to have two levels of education for Australian children- high quality, well resourced Private School education for a lesser number of children from affluent and upwardly mobile suburbs and poorer quality, poorly resourced State School education for an ever increasing number of children from poorer homes. I fail to see the benefit of an education system that increases to increase the gap between the 'haves' and the 'have nots.' 35 years ago a Grade 3 8 year old girl visiting Kingfisher Recycling Centre at Aspley Special School told me she thought that:-

"We should treat each other and the environment how we would like to be treated." I wonder what that young woman thinks about the decisions our decision makers still make today? Thank you for giving me an opportunity to make a small submission. All the best in the future you choose for those you cherish. Harry Johnson Former Teacher/ Coordinator, Kingfisher Recycling Centre, Aspley Special School, Brisbane.