

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

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Attachments:

Submitter Comments:

The underfunding of public schools in QLD is putting financial pressure on local families in my Gold Coast Community. My estimated out of pocket costs for my daughter who is entering high school this year at our local school will be approximately \$2500. I am very proud of her for making several specialised programs at this school these extra programs come at a significant cost to parents. Academic excellence and sporting programs are being subsidised by parents. I received a \$1420 bill to pay for student resource schemes and 3 programs. This is before the usual uniform costs. A second financial pressure is the bring your own device schemes. BYOD is compulsory at most high schools and is now being brought in to primary schools around between grade 5 and 6 (and earlier in some public schools). These devices are fully funded by parents and retail at approximately \$400 per student. Some public schools have computer hire schemes that run at approximately \$300 per year but guarantee IT support and replacement laptops if breakage or fault occurs. However not every school has these schemes in place and this adds further expenses to families who are already struggling. Not only are parents and carers carrying the extra cost but so are teachers in this state. I regularly hear stories of teachers having to reach into their own pocket to provide resources for the children in their classrooms. The recommended 80% of funding by the QLD state is desperately needed to contribute to resource schemes so that families can send their children to a public system that is fully funded. A good and equitable public education system is a mark of a prosperous society and future generations will undoubtedly be disadvantaged if funding is not provided now.