

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

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Submitted by: Upper Brookfield State School P&C Association
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Attachments:

Submitter Comments:

Make State Schools truly free, and provide funding to cover out of pocket expenses. The lack of funding means that there is no funding for school representation for curricular: sports/music/stem/arts etc. Which means that children miss out on opportunities to excel or to compete or to challenge themselves with other schools and make new friends outside their school environment. Upper Brookfield SS has to concentrate on fundraising for transportation for buses as well as paying for the event or the parents have to help cover the costs. Upper Brookfield SS doesn't have a school canteen/tuckshop but we have 53 students/children so we should be able to provide an opportunity to sell school lunches each day. Upper Brookfield SS has had to apply for grants and fundraising for a playground play fort because the existing play fort does not comply with the QLD Government standards. Most playgrounds forts that are school compliant cost at a base starting price of \$70,000 which doesn't give you much these days. Due to lack of government funding we do not have a music program: strings, wind, band, choir which they would really benefit from. Studies have proven that children are more successful in life when they take up an instrument in primary school. We don't have the funding for experienced or specialise teachers in sport, music or languages. One lesson per week of each of these subjects is not enough to represent the school or to nurture the student into pursuing a talent in any of these areas because of the lack of funding. Upper Brookfield SS is not an attractive choice for many parents wishing to offer their children, an extended opportunity to learn life skills, mental and physical skills in the areas of sport, music, arts, languages and STEM. A well rounded education creates confidence to embrace opportunities at high school. These children in the state system get very few opportunities to compete with other schools because of the lack of funding. Last year we moved from a country town to Brisbane, purely for more opportunities and education for our children. I realise that my older child needed more opportunity in music, sport and extracurricular, so I chose to place him in Brookfield state primary school. My youngest son required a more nurturing environment that allowed him to integrate with all ages, so I placed him in Upper Brookfield SS. Only to find the lack of funding has disadvantaged him. Both my children have benefited from being in a nurturing school environment academically and show they are ahead of their age academically however to make a balanced all round child the QLD school funding is letting our children down with all other areas. We are trying so hard to fundraise for more opportunities for sports, music and supplies. Anything extra that we offer the children the parents have to find the money to pay for it. Most of the time children miss out as parents can't afford the extra costs. Upper Brookfield cannot offer the programs that surrounding schools can offer due to lack of funding and student numbers so we lose more numbers because we don't have these programs. If we lose children to the surrounding schools then we lose teachers and more funding. Sadly often parents say we treasure and love the personalise nurturing close environment at Upper Brookfield. The teachers are amazing however our children want more opportunities in sports, music, STEM, arts etc. Other schools are funded especially in the private sector so why should our school and others be disadvantaged because of the lack of funding. Funding would allow our children an opportunity to step into high school with more emotional maturity around competition, more confidence in knowing who they are and what they can achieve beyond their academic ability. All school children in Australia deserve the same amount of opportunities and 100% of funding. The \$100,000 per year that we are not currently receiving in funding would change these children future and lives at Upper Brookfield State School and I'm sure it would for other State schools in Queensland.