

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

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Attachments:

Submitter Comments:

As a graduate of Queensland's public school system, it's alarming that the adequacy of school funding in Queensland remains a topic of debate. It's a no-brainer that public schools should be fully funded, and it's disheartening that this conversation even needs to happen. Observations on Underfunding:

1. Shift in Educational Attitudes: Over the years, I've noticed a concerning shift attitudes from both teachers and students in public schools. The sentiment of "if you're not learning, you're earning" has gained ground, indicating a worrying trend of undervaluing public education. I can't imagine this same trend is happening in private or catholic schools and so is likely a direct consequence of inadequate funding affecting the quality and offerings of public education.
2. Misconception Around Public Education Costs: There exists a pervasive misconception that public education is free in Australia. It is a claim we make but it's simply not the case which honestly is embarrassing. Underfunded public education places an unspoken financial burden on families, guardians, and educators themselves who often pay for things out of their own pockets. If we want to claim to have free education in Australia lets make them actually free.
3. Unequal Access to Education: Underfunding creates disparities in educational access and opportunities, perpetuating an unequal playing field for students based on their socio-economic backgrounds. Fully funding public education should be a given, not a subject of debate. At the very least public schools should be funded full stop before we also fund public and catholic schools. The rate that public funds increasingly go to these already funded schools is frankly disgusting. I urge the committee to prioritize comprehensive funding reforms, and ensure equitable, high-quality education for all. Thanks, Kate K