

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

Submission No: 56
Submitted by: Stationery Aid Ltd
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: See attachment
Submitter Comments:

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Item	Relevant Section of Bill	Comment
1	56A Definitions for part In this part— individual student resources , in relation to a relevant student, means any of the following resources necessary for the student to participate in a State school’s educational program— (a) textbooks ; (b) stationery ; (c) personal computing devices; Example— a laptop or tablet for the student’s use at school and outside school grounds	An example of the cost for textbooks is \$60.85 / booklist for students experiencing disadvantage and vulnerability. One full student booklist at the same school costs \$210.65 and this is consistent across many schools in Queensland.
	56C Objective—funding State schools (1) The cost of providing instruction, administration and facilities for the education of all relevant students is to be met by the State. (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the costs to be met by the State are to include the cost of providing— (a) the individual student resources required for each relevant student ; and (d) any other resources necessary to ensure— (i) each relevant student’s participation in a State school’s educational program;	Based on our support of students and families in 3 years Stationery Aid estimates that on average 18.5 students /state school are in need of support with full student booklists and education resources to start the school year. NB: This figure is an average and is likely to fluctuate over time. This equates to 23,327 students across Queensland requiring help with stationery and student booklists. This is only 4% of students in Queensland state schools. When 16.6% (https://australiareviews.au/australia-poverty-statistics) of children live below the poverty line in Australia, this would mean that 94,663 students across Queensland state schools are in experiencing disadvantage and vulnerability. Of these students their demographic disadvantage is through no fault of



		<p>their own. Our research indicates the following demographics needing support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single parent 20% Parent/s unemployed 14% Financial hardship 22% Prison affected 2% Mental Health 6% Homelessness 4% Drugs and Alcohol 4% First nations 14% Refugees 4% Domestic Violence 7%
	<p>56D Objective—reporting (1) The chief executive is to, within 6 months before the start of each school year (the relevant school year) for State schools, give the Minister a report that includes the following information for each State school— (a) the number of students enrolled at the school for the previous school year; (b) the number of students expected to be enrolled at the school in the relevant school year, based on relevant data; (c) the cost of, or if the cost can not be accurately calculated a reasonable estimate of the cost of, providing the following for each student mentioned in paragraph (b) for the relevant school year— (i) the individual student resources to be given to each student;</p>	<p><i>Quotes from our partners:</i></p> <p><i>“We have students whose families struggle to provide everything their child needs for school and having the booklist completed for them is a huge help, especially those who have multiple children.”</i></p> <p><i>“The children who received the bookbags are First Nations and struggling financially. They were struggling just to put food on the table, let alone get the children kitted out for school. Obtaining the bookbags mean that the students could commence the school year with all their stationery needs, which enhances their learning.”</i></p> <p><i>“Each student that receives a complete booklist from Stationery Aid begins the year with everything that they require to have the best start. I believe it also improves their self</i></p>



		<p><i>esteem to have everything that is needed in the classroom, and not needing to be borrowing, stealing or sitting quiet without. I sort uniforms, you sort books and stationery, with that partnership we are giving them a great beginning."</i></p> <p><i>"They are able to start the year equipped to learn. There is no shame about not having equipment, no absences because they don't have equipment. They feel confident and "normal" because they have the things everyone else has. They are ready to learn from day 1."</i></p>

