

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

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Education, Employment and Training Committee
Via email: eetc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Submission to the *Helping Families with School Costs Bill 2023* Inquiry

Dear Education, Employment and Training Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for your consideration of the *Education (General Provisions) (Helping Families with School Costs) Amendment Bill 2023*.

I share here in Appendix 1, emails from Queensland families shared with me and my office. **These stories from Queenslanders from across the state do not all reflect the opinions of myself or the Greens**, but rather, express the opinions of a wide range of Queenslanders engaged with the education system.

The key themes that have emerged from this feedback include:

- Overwhelming support for state schools to be fully funded
- Overwhelming support for state schools to be genuinely free
- The negative impacts that underfunding is having on students, teachers, schools and families
- Rising costs that parents and carers are expected to pay at state schools
- Increasing economic pressures on families with the rising cost of living

I'd also like to draw the Committee's attention to research recently commissioned by the Australian Government Primary Principals Association¹. The researchers document the president underfunding of state schools:

"If there is no change to current school funding agreements, most government schools will remain under-funded by the end of this decade" (p. 18).

The researchers document the ways in which underfunding is re-inforcing educational inequality:

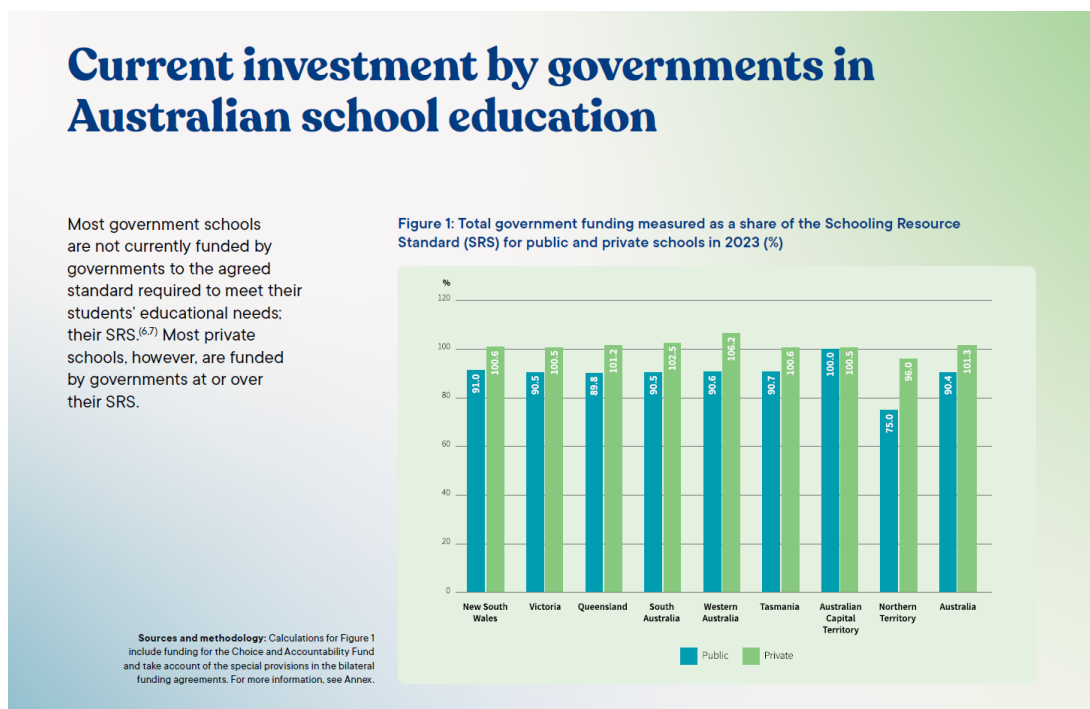
"While government funding of education in Australia has privileged the more socioeconomically advantaged private school sectors over government public schools, student outcomes that reflect inequity in education have persisted" (p. 11).

¹ AGPPA Position Paper, 2023, *A Better and Fairer Start for All*,
<https://vpa.org.au/VPA/VPA/Publications/AGPPA---A-Better-and-Fairer-Start-for-All.aspx>

The researchers document the ongoing impacts of underfunding, including: ongoing educational gaps between socioeconomically advantaged and disadvantaged students; an ongoing teacher shortage, and teachers leaving the sector; declines in student and teacher wellbeing; growing strain on the health system, with schools unable to engage in early intervention; a nation-wide decline in economic outcomes (p. 19).

The researchers also stress that adequate funding will help address inequality:

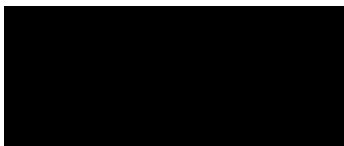
“There is consensus that adequate funding is important for all students and schools - and that increases in funding have the most impact on student outcomes for more socioeconomically disadvantaged students and schools” (p. 17).



Source: AGPPA Position Paper, 2023, *A Better and Fairer Start for All*, p. 6

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,



Amy MacMahon
Member for South Brisbane

Appendix 1: Emails from Queenslanders about school funding

The Qld Governments needs to make state education truly free to stop improper and inequitable fee charging which is coordinated at the local level and without due scrutiny.

1. Application fees and program for selective enrolment must be reviewed. I believe that fees are being charged above the cost recovery principle outlined in the User Charging Procedure across many schools. There is a wide variation of application fees even though the same processes of standardised testing and interview are used. These fees appear to be calibrated based of school ICSEA rather than upon cost recovery. I believe millions of dollar are being generated for schools from the taxpayer and without transparency. If through assessment and selective processes, schools identify that students would benefit from additional educational services provided by the State School (eg. Selective programs) these should be funded by the Qld Government.

This is the opposite end of the spectrum to providing special education and supports to those with disabilities.

2. [SCHOOL NAME REMOVED] and perhaps other international bacculaureates charge unprescribed Specialised Educational Program fees which do not appear in Schedule 3 of the EGPA. SEP IB fees are clearly regulated and specified.

3. There is inequity in the inclusions of the SEP fee across various IB schools. This has been brought to the attention of the DoE and they cannot provide information or justification for the discrepancy. If these fees are charged on a cost recovery basis for delivering the IB, there should be little difference between schools. In fact, larger IB schools should be better resourced and therefore include more resources, not less. Currently, the IB SEP fee at [SCHOOL NAME REMOVED] includes zero resources.

4. In 2023, the Qld Gov recouped \$600+ Government appropriation grants for relief teachers from schools such as [SCHOOL NAME REMOVED] ? The school only received \$50+ of this funding in 2022. This can be viewed in their SAP report downloaded from the DoE school directory. There is too much waste in school funding because school leaders are making decisions with little meaningful community consultation. This was recently seen in the blow outs of school building costs. Teachers are not business, finance, design or building project experts and they should not be administering multi-million dollar budgets. This waste could be directed to more teachers and teacher aides who actually deliver education.

4. Schools are asking parents to fund essential facilities such as toilets. This is unacceptable and the Qld Government is failing in its obligations under the EGPA. They are also taking advantage of parents by not properly informing them about their fundraising. In Qld, P&Cs are not well regulated and operate on trust alone. The DoE says

they have no jurisdiction over P&Cs yet schools are asking P&Cs to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars. This P&C dissolved in March 2023 yet it still solicits unlimited donations from the community. This dissolution was supervised by the Metropolitan Regional Office. This ongoing fundraising is a financial and corruption risk as there is no operating committee. The DoE have been informed. [WEB LINK REMOVED FOR CONFIDENTIALITY]

5. Without transparency, the DoE has standing offer arrangements with textbook and uniform suppliers which offer parents products with a 12% premium which is delivered back to the school. Uniforms aren't expensive because of the quality - it is due to the Qld Government's hidden tax to fundraise for schools. 12% across the community unfairly disadvantages those of lower incomes. Some schools such as [SCHOOL NAME REMOVED] change their uniforms frequently and without due community consultation. They make uniform designs redundant and second uniforms cannot be purchased. This is unsustainable. They also have dozens of branded compulsory items. This is not inclusive and it is not in the spirit of state education.

6. Schools charge resource fees for items which are essential to their programs. These items and programs are not selected by parents and they are not enhancements. This is not in keeping with the User Charging Matrix. Laptops are also essential. [WEB LINKS REMOVED FOR CONFIDENTIALITY]

7. Some schools absorb the Textbook Resource Allowance without due transparency then add on additional fees (\$1000+ per year). At [SCHOOL NAME REMOVED], hundreds of dollars worth of textbooks and stationary need to be purchased by parents each year on top of these fees. The school did not present SRS fees as optional as per the Student Resource Scheme procedure. The school refused to report income and expenditure of parent funds to the P&C Association annually as per procedure.

[WEB LINK REMOVED FOR CONFIDENTIALITY]

8. Full scope audit was undertaken at the school in 2022 but the DoE is withholding the results. The DoE lacks transparency in relation to school funding and the use of parent and public funds.

9. Student outcomes across the board having been falling since the beginning of NAPLAN. Qld students have some of the worst outcomes for literacy, numeracy, digital literacy, bullying and mental health of any state.

10. Teachers including myself have left the profession in droves due to unsafe workloads and environments.

State Schools must be fully funded by the Qld Gov as per their obligation.

I live on [LOCATION REMOVED] with my partner and two teenage children. From my experience with my kids friends/ peers and via voluntary work in the community I know many children who are missing out on basic opportunities because their parents cannot afford the various fees and charges that occur in Queensland State Schools. Queensland Government could easily cover these basic costs and make state education truly free and therefore accessible.

Many kids on [LOCATION REMOVED] are left behind from school events, excursions and sporting and academic extension trips because these are not able to be funded by parents. This often leaves these kids feeling dejected, isolated and more likely to shift their focus to more destructive pursuits, eventually being caught up in the youth justice system.

I see this happening frequently to young kids that would otherwise be high achievers in another setting.

Please meet 100% of minimum needs funding and provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources

Queensland schools are some of the most underfunded in the country and it's concerning. Funding for Queensland state schools is falling short by \$1.7 billion every year. This means fewer teachers, fewer resources for kids and more out-of-pocket expenses for families.

With the school funding agreement between the state and federal governments about to be re-negotiated for the next five years, it's an opportunity for the government to:

- make state education truly free
- meet 100% of minimum needs funding
- provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources

When we invest in children, teachers and educational facilities, the benefits are realized for everyone in the community - the long term gains are well known and researched. As are the problems associated with kids who are disengaged from learning and education - the burdens on the community, youth justice system, mental health system, child safety system are well documented and the costs associated with welfare and rehabilitation are better being put towards educational, preventative and positive resources. With the cost of living expenses soaring, most families are struggling to meet basic needs - educational outcomes for children should not suffer due to the extra burden that underfunded state schools are having on families.

With the teacher shortage, children are suffering in large classes with burnt out teachers. The children with higher needs are not receiving the attention and support they require - the whole class therefore suffers in their learning. Teachers and children should not have to bear the consequences of a poor education policy in Queensland.

I am a single parent of four children who have all attended state schools. Two of my children are graduated and working in the nrhw community. Two still in high school. Through all their schooling I have struggled to pay the school fees at state schools. Compared to NSW and Victorian schools where my niece and nephew attend, we have been shocked to see the comparison with fees in QLD state schools. Currently my daughter will not be able to get a year 12 jersey or attend her formal as the fees are not paid. They aren't paid as they are unaffordable for me to find the extra money for her fees to be brought up. QLD also needs to make strong statements to public schools regarding students who are from less income households as not allowing participation hurts these kids.

It hurts that my kids choose subjects based on what it might cost. They aren't able to fully experience school and enjoy learning as they know the strain it puts upon us. So they choose the subjects that cost less, not the ones that interest them. It affects their self-esteem and several of their friends are in the same position. My son has decided he feels it's better for him to leave after this year and find work! And school fees factor into this decision. This isn't IDEAL! Parents want them to finish high school to get the best start possible from their education. This isn't the smart state to be restricting young minds in this way. You can't hide money issues from teenagers they know and half the time the school tells them, their fees aren't paid! It needs to change asap as it is hurting self-esteem.

Queensland needs to

- make state education truly free
 - meet 100% of minimum needs funding
 - provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources
-

Fully funding state schools is necessary to provide all children equal opportunity no matter their background. In Australia, education is a right, isn't it?

In a wealthy state like Queensland – where our state government is sitting on a \$12 billion surplus, where corporate profits are soaring – there's no excuse for underfunding our state schools. Stop underfunding state schools. Children now, are THE FUTURE - why are you not investing in them?

Migrating from overseas country where good education (including Universities) are free, I can attest to the benefit of having no-cost-to-student education.

the benefits are not just of economic nature, but also promote social cohesion and a reduction of social issues down the road as the result of poverty or exclusion from "main stream" society.

I'm truly amazed to this day, how many fees, levies, "contributions" are charge by our local public high school. While ok for me, I believe this has the potential to put good education out of reach for those who cannot afford these "extras" (which are not extra at all!) and therefore miss out on certain courses and opportunities - not to mention events such as school camps which are vital for being a part in the student's class community.

Schools not appear to having to resort to even charging for "award ceremonies".

Please ensure that all of these "normal" activities that are part of school life are fully funded, including uniforms, book, camps, music, sports, language extensions etc.

Currently there is a rare opportunity presented for the Qld State Government to rectify, reverse and re-position its failed funding policy of state schools. The recently introduced 'Helping Families with School Cost Bill' would enable the government to re - calibrate its position. This would also be a catalyst to ascertain how the funding of our state schools have been lagging behind the optimal level by approximately \$ 1.7 billion each year.

State schools are the only education option for the children of an overwhelming majority of Qld families. This includes not only the poorest sections, but also the previously regarded as "middle class" and even the "upper middle class" Qld families.

In an era of skyrocketing cost-of-living, inflation, rental increases, practically zero rental affordability, energy/transportation costs, etc. etc., unless our state schools are absolutely free to enroll their children, we are doomed to create a future society of the super rich enslaving the rest of the community.

Thanking your committee for a positive response for the sake of our children.

We need to fully fund our state and high schools. Our children are our future and I fully believe that the investment will pay off.

Every child has the potential to be an amazing productive member of our society, unfortunately some kids are disadvantaged and don't get the opportunity, through no fault of their own.

As a tax payer, investing in our children's and countries future is one of the best use of funds I can think of.

For the future of Australia Queensland needs to up the education standard for all our citizens not only by making state education truly free but by incentivising able children to pursue higher education. With out meeting 100% of minimum needs funding we can't even compete in the world for the jobs of the future. With the advent of AI we need educated employees who will know how to use the new tools and device new applications to benefit our society - so we don't have to 'import' educated people from other countries to fill the gap.

The reality that Australias natural renewable water resources will only support a population of 20-25 million people cannot be ignored forever! Aquifiers are already being drained throughout the country and not being replenished.

I have two Sons that are attending QLD state Schools in Brisbane West. I have worked in the primary P&C raising money for the School for the last 12 years. The hard work we put in to raise funds, doesn't cover most of the needs that the School has from a basic bare essentials point of view. With the pressures on families financially, people are no longer able to volunteer (they are all trying to work to make ends meet), leaving a gap in the School's budget that just gets bigger every single year.

Queensland is falling behind the World and will no longer be able to be referred to as the smart state. To ensure that equal education and opportunities are delivered to all children, not just the ones that have rich parents, we need to -

- make state education truly free
 - meet 100% of minimum needs funding
 - provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources.
 - Pay teachers a decent liveable wage to attract a higher standard of teacher and compensate them for the efforts they put in.
 - Include Mental Health and Wellness programs in the funding.
 - Include funding for learning support and any inclusion support.
 - Review the curriculum to ensure that it is up to date with the rest of the world, engaging and relevant.
 - Provide more hybrid learning opportunities to fit in with the rest of the world and the business sector.
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With everyday costs continuing to rise, it is more urgent now to increase funding to public schools to help families under financial stress keep sending their children to public schools. I understand that some school children go to school without breakfast due to their families current financial stress.

The Federal (Labor) government also needs to encourage the Queensland state (Labor) government to build new schools to accommodate the increasing number of available school students - their families unable to fund private or independent school fees and new students arriving from overseas.

In my area a new high school needs to be built in the Moggill-Belbowrie area and a new primary school needs to be built in the western suburbs. Both these essential infrastructures are being delayed by the state government. The Queensland government needs to inject more money into public schools and less money into projects such as the redevelopment of the Gabba precinct for the 2032 Olympic Games _ a huge overspend for little return with existing facilities only requiring small changes to be adequate.

The local [SCHOOL NAME REMOVED] current has 2,700 students enrolled, some being housed (educated) in temporary buildings. I understand more temporary buildings are considered for placement on the school grounds from 2024 onwards.

We need more funding of state schools! Please negotiate a new funding agreement that will benefit people, families, students and assist them to attend state schools where they can get a decent education instead of staying at home and playing on phones.

I have a vague memory that once upon a time we used to call ourselves the Smart State. Or is my memory not serving me correctly?

At any rate, surely education is one of the most precious investments we can make in the future. Education is something that I think most parents want to give their children so that they have the luxury of making choices in the future -not being restricted by insufficient education/training and tied down to a low wage because they are literally selling their brawn and not their brain.

Not all parents can afford a private school education which offers smaller classes, extra-curricular activities, more teachers, more subjects, better facilities etc. etc.

Teachers are surely some of our most valued professionals (even though I suspect we don't pay them accordingly). I understand that Queensland schools are some of the most underfunded in the country. And yet internal migrants are streaming across the border every week.

Please make sure our state schools are funded adequately so that teachers can focus on what they do best and parents don't have to reconsider whether living in Queensland is actually disadvantaging their kids future.

You can do this in the following ways:

Make state education truly free.

Meet 100% of minimum needs funding.

Provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources

Thank you for listening to my rant but education is dear to my heart. It's the one thing people can't take away from you.

As parents, we know that education is a basic right for our children. We have multiple children, and due to the rising cost of living, our only option is to send our children to a state school. We expect this to be paid for by the government, due to all the tax we pay. We expect our children are getting the same quality education as everyone else and paying the same, this seems fair. However, at our school we pay more than other suburbs near us for our co-curricular activities (eg. sport, music, art activities). Our school is larger but we don't seem to get the the benefits of that. Instead there is less opportunity for students to play an instrument as they are competing for places with more children but there are no extra teachers employed to manage it. There are limited places in the 'gifted program' because of teacher resources, teachers are often volunteering their own time to offer these programs.

Our SRS contribution and other charges are more than other schools - just because of our post code. Just because of our post code does not mean we have more money and can afford to pay more and this is not fair.

We live in a community where many children go to private schools and when you compare the resources they have available at private schools, we wonder how this is fair for our children? The quality of education a child receives and the access to resources should not be based on financial ability to pay more for better opportunities. We need to make state education truly free for all children.

It is over time to recognise that public school funding should be greatly increased in order to make state education truly free so that all Queensland children can have the best possible outcomes. For far too long the rise in private education by government funding has created a division in outcomes. I have always firmly agreed with the original philosophy that education should be free, compulsory and secular and that governments are responsible for this. The Qld government should meet 100% of minimum needs funding and

provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources.

Please revise State School funding to be at the level of the School Resourcing Standard.

More than ever the prosperity of the state and country relies on the properly educated and trained children of our future. Budget cuts to school funding won't help in the long term, and we have learned that we don't want unsolvable problems appearing later on.

With costs rising we are finding it more difficult to address the expenses of our children's education. No child should miss out on a full education.

You need to make state education truly free so that all children have access to great opportunities whether their parents can afford the "extras" or not. This means meeting 100% of minimum needs finding and providing extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources.

Queensland needs to

- make state education truly free
- meet 100% of minimum needs funding
- provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources

Far too much money is provided to private schools which much of the population cannot afford to attend.

It is unclear to me why public schools over the years have become inferior to private school.

All children irrespective of the demographic they live in deserve equal education and this is currently not the case.

It's my view funding for private schools should be heavily reduced if not removed all together.

- We cannot allow our kids future to fall behind. We have a great country with many opportunities to give and if we create a well educated country we can lead the world in many things. We will be able to keep our professions and professionals in the country instead of losing them overseas.

- 100% funding will assist in closing the gap with class structure and provide a more even playing field for their future.

Our Queensland State Schools are underfunded. It is not new. My children attended such schools and my grand-children are currently experiencing it.

How many more generations down the track will we need to

- make state education truly free
 - meet 100% of minimum needs funding
 - provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources
-

My children currently attend state primary schools and their school is under resourced. We are having to fundraise for the basic school essentials such as readers, computer access and infrastructure to keep our children healthy and safe. We support the activities that the P&C fund but they shouldn't be required to fund the basics.

Queensland needs to:

- make state education truly free
 - meet 100% of minimum needs funding
 - provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources.
-

I think schools should be 100 % free. I have 3 boys, 1 about to start grade 2 and the my twins about to start prep. It was a huge cost this year by the time I bought them all their book packs and uniforms ect. With all 3 we are looking at \$1000 in cost just to get them started with the essentials and we still haven't bought them shoes or back packs yet.

Not to mention all the extra other things we need to get like subscriptions to their computer learning programs, excursions, sports ect. It is definitely become quite expensive and would make a great difference to our family if it was truely free.

I request you please reinstate funding to ensure public education is 100% free as it was originally intended in order that all children can have the benefit of an equal start in life, in getting ahead if they are born into less advantaged families and so they can go on to reach their full potential for not only themselves but for their future contributions to our state of Qld and this wonderful country.

100% of minimum needs funding should

- provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources

Not every parent is in a financial position to pay for school necessities and this can reflect in lower self confidence and lower ability to build self esteem for children who see their schoolmates participating in ways they cannot all because their parent/s don't have the financial means. This cannot be rocket science to educators and Education Dept administrators and Govt Education Ministers, reps and decision makers. The Premier's own constituent families are not the most financially well off in the state for example. How many children in Inala are being disadvantaged this way in the potential futures successes and contributions to Qld?

Thank you for considering my submission.

Our children deserve every opportunity to thrive and providing a fully funded education is essential to making it possible. I am a parent of two primary school aged children and am involved as a volunteer to many of the schools functions. There is a constant round of fund raising by the parents just to maintain basic facilities. It is very tiring. I would like the state to full fund our children's schools.

Our mandatory [SCHOOL NAME REMOVED] fees for our daughter in her first year were \$780. These had to be paid, otherwise we were advised they would be passed to a debt collector. We have no say in the mandatory school fees.

Text books, apps and other stationary resources etc are required to be bought separately by parents. The additional resource expenses for the first year was \$287, plus the cost of an ipad and accessories (\$664). School uniforms which are compulsory have to be purchased from the school. These were \$408 for the minimum requirement in the first year.

I would like to know, how much do local state schools mandatorily charge over and above resources expenses incurred by parents, is there any consistency in how schools charge and how do those charges fit in with the legislation?

I understand from the Education Act that state education is to be free, being the cost of providing instruction, administration and facilities . My understanding is that the state does not provide the resources. What is a reasonable level of resources that parents should fund?

I feel there should be more transparency. If state schools are not free, which they are not, that needs to be clearly stated. Our costs for the basics and the mandatory fees were just over \$2,000 in the first year. We have three children, that's \$6k in a year! Happy to forward you a cost breakdown.

Please do not allow disadvantage to continue in Queensland.

Queensland needs to

- make state education truly free
- meet 100% of minimum needs funding
- provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources

This will reduce youth crime and keep our state growing with young people instead engaged in learning and training opportunities through public education - in turn leading to better employment outcomes for all.

- make state education truly free
 - meet 100% of minimum needs funding
 - provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources
-

I work for the State Education system and am proud to work with our QLD kids, however, we need commitment from the State and Commonwealth governments to meet 100% of minimum needs funding and to provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources. Too many children are being left behind and with the cost of living crisis, school expenses sometimes seem the first to go.

I work daily with students who don't have the correct resources, a clean uniform, wearable shoes, and their school lunches are sometimes heartbreaking. We as a school do what we can, however our funds are also limited. Yet down the road, we have an exclusive private school that is funded higher per student than our school. It does not seem an equitable situation where the wealthy and privileged are given more funding than the much needed State schools.

Please consider changing the funding models and fund our children properly. They are our future!

...we have three children enrolled in a large Brisbane State high school. The fact that Qld state schools are the poorest in the country comes as no surprise to us. We are aware of how private schools operate in our area and the comparison with our own school is simply appalling.

And of course, so are the outcomes for our kids. Our school can't even fund basic science experiments, so they watch a video instead.

Our school offers three lessons a week for English and Maths from 7 to 12 - all private schools in our area offer four. And people wonder why our results are woeful.

OECD Pisa results for Australia have been declining for over a decade, to think that amongst this result is the fact that Qld is leading the charge in mediocre education, is outrageous, especially given how wealthy this state is.

The kids that do well at schools like ours are either very smart/gifted or have parents who fund private tuition. Everyone else is doomed to never fully realise their potential and often internalise low self-esteem.

And all this under a Labor government. It's very shameful.

Please provide the extra funding to State Schools in Qld.

Labor are meant to be the ones who improve Education of our children.

Do you realize that Teachers in these poorly paid positions, often have to spend their hard earned wage to supplement essential items for some of their Pupils?

Think about that & act to make our State competitive with other States & more!

Why is Queensland schools some of the most underfunded in Australia?

- make state education truly free
 - meet 100% of minimum needs funding
 - provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources.
-

I am a burnt out primary school teacher who is urging you to:

- make state education truly free
 - meet 100% of minimum needs funding
 - provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources particularly for students with additional needs.
-

I have worked in education for most of my life. I have been constantly faced with a lack of recourse and a lack of support.

Education should not be seen as an expense. It should be seen as an investment to the future prosperity of our country.

With adequate funding, resources and support we can be a leader in research and development rather than a consumer.

Queensland needs to

- make state education truly free
 - meet 100% of minimum needs funding
 - provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources
-

I am a resident of Queensland and I find it appalling to read that Queensland is the bottom of the ladder when it comes to funding State schools. This is despite the Queensland government having a \$12 BILLION surplus and where corporate profits are continuing to soar.

This situation is not good enough for our State schools. The teachers and students are severely suffering from this underfunding and at a time when family finances are being stretched to the limit. Research all over the world proves that if governments fund schools properly and fairly the results are positive for students and the whole of the community. It is high time the Queensland government funds state schools adequately making state schools truly free so that students from all backgrounds can benefit equally.

With the school funding agreement between the state and federal governments about to be renegotiated for the next five years it is most important that the recently introduced 'Helping Families with School Costs Bill' is supported so that an historic inquiry into state school costs and funding are investigated.

Thank you for taking the time to read this submission.

As the grandparent of four children currently in the State School system and a fifth who exited the system last year, I am appalled by the obvious lack of funding directed towards the education system.

This is evidenced by the lack of adequate support for classroom teachers, as indicated by inadequate additional support and resources when special needs students are added to their workloads, inadequate paid time for professional development, heavy individual workloads leaving insufficient time for lesson preparation, and insufficient physical resources as indicated by frequent requests for subject levies.

The children of Queensland are the future of Queensland and they deserve better.

Free state education is crucial in order to make education truly accessible and equitable for all. By implementing policies that meet 100% of minimum needs funding and provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources, we can ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to succeed.

Meeting 100% of minimum needs funding means that all students will have access to the necessary resources and support required for their education. This includes funding for textbooks, classroom materials, technology, and other essential learning tools. By removing financial barriers, we can create an environment where every student can thrive academically, regardless of their economic background.

In addition to meeting basic needs, providing extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs is essential. School fees can often be a burden for families with limited financial means, potentially excluding students from attending certain schools. By covering these costs, we can ensure that no student is denied access to education due to financial constraints. This promotes equal opportunities and ensures that education remains accessible to all.

Furthermore, extra funding for extra-curricular activities is crucial for a well-rounded education. These activities, such as sports, arts, and clubs, play a vital role in a student's holistic development. By providing funding for these activities, we enable students to explore their interests and talents, regardless of their financial situation. This not only enhances their educational experience but also promotes social inclusion and personal growth.

Lastly, allocating funding for school resources, such as libraries, laboratories, and technology infrastructure, is essential for creating a conducive learning environment. These resources are necessary for effective teaching and learning. By ensuring that schools have the necessary resources, we enhance the quality of education provided to students, enabling them to reach their full potential.

In conclusion, free state education is necessary to make education truly free and accessible for all. By meeting 100% of minimum needs funding and providing extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs, we can ensure that every student has an equal

opportunity to succeed, regardless of their financial background. This promotes equal opportunities, inclusivity, and the overall development of students

The QLD Govt needs to do a lot more for public and private schools. Teachers are grossly underpaid, I am one of them and I am sick and tired of not being paid for all the work and extra hours I do. You are well aware of the shortage of teachers and unless you act now, nothing is going to change! Students are not being able to be taught, as there are so many behaviour issues. Classrooms are not resourced properly, relief staff don't even have access to laptops. It is pathetic. Our future generation is stuffed. No wonder youth crime is out of control! Doing something now!!!!!!

Youth education should be the most important thing on the budget, supporting our children should be priority one. Opening new schools is one thing but maintaining them is far more important. While we have such a low birth rate and low socio-economic birth rate we need to focus on everything we can to encourage reproduction. The most critical though is no cost education. While learning parents shouldn't have any costs.

Queensland needs to

- make state education truly free
- meet 100% of minimum needs funding
- provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources

Families all across Queensland are struggling with the ever growing cost of out-of-pocket school expenses like subject fees, laptops and uniforms. Teachers are having to use their own “already-too-low wages” to buy basic resources so kids don't miss out.

In a wealthy state like Queensland “ where our state government is sitting on a \$12 billion surplus, where corporate profits are soaring“ there's no excuse for underfunding our state schools. Qld has the lowest public school funding in Australia.

I'm writing to you today to plead with you to help make state education truly free. We desperately need to meet 100% of minimum needs funding for families. People are struggling and families are not okay trying to keep up with basic needs. I ask you to please provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources. We were shocked to see how expensive it is, just to send our eldest to a public school. Our youngest has a developmental delay and ASD and will require much more assistance in his schooling. Why does Queensland miss out? Why are we down the bottom of the list in funding? Why aren't our schools and children as important? As a parent and also a Teacher Aide, I implore you to help families & schools with school funding and expenses.

My Children went to School over 8 years ago and even then the costs to [SCHOOL NAME REMOVED] were high. Uniforms required For One School. Instead of State Schools bulk buying the same Uniform with perhaps a Logo to say which School you are at. Too much Schools have become Isolated with a Privatised begging for Money model as WE want to be the Best and incorporate as many things as possible. WE need to get the Basics right like free Textbooks on Computer. Better Teacher Student Ratios. More Teacher Aides to alleviate the Stress and a Principals Staff thats focused on Education not Fundraising. So the injection of Real Sustainable Money is needed especially in an Ai Future. Education is Essential.

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The cost of living is becoming unbearable, my husband has a generous salary and we still are nearly keeping our heads above water so to speak. I have a daughter starting school next year and I dont know how we are going to afford the uniforms and book lists and then later the iPads. We are going to have to put it on credit. We simply cant afford not to, we need to eat as well. I can only imagine what other families who are on less are feeling.

Teachers shouldn't be supplementing it with their own money, they do enough as is. Please put more funding into our schools.

I'm a public school student and the first of my family to attend university. I never considered university until I met my best friend at public school whose parents were both university educated. I have three beautiful children who attend or attended public schools. I believe in strong public schools that provide futures for all children not just those that can afford to pay. Fewer and fewer children from higher SES families attend public schools which widens the gap between rich kids and poor kids. Public schools can't fund raise due to the lack of economic diversity in the schools. When no one's parents have attended higher education children have no role models for this. When our education is underfunded children's natural talents aren't developed and our work shortages continue to grow. Diversity is so important to allow children to write their own futures and not just expect what was handed down to them. So why are parents who can afford private school choosing this path? Well both parents and employers perceptions are that the school you attend dictates who you are. This is starting to be more fact than fiction due the egregious underfunding of our public education system. It has to stop, it's not the equity and fair go we pretend to have anymore. I want to be proud of voting for Labor because it puts pride in shaping the culture of our community. A fair go for all. We need to strengthen our public schools

- make state education truly free
- meet 100% of minimum needs funding
- provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources

Make public education a premium choice and end elitism and the us and them dynamics.

As a teacher in a Queensland state school, I personally every day see the impact of an underfunding school in a low socio-economic area. I watch kids come to school daily with unclean uniforms, no lunch, and have no books to start the year with. Many of my students I personally go and buy them stationery for the year out of my pocket as the school does not have spare materials due to funding. Our school is unable to effectively teach the technology curriculum due to limited access to resources.

We moved to Queensland 7 yrs. Ago because our daughter divorced her husband and she was left in difficult circumstances.

Fortunately she has found a number of women in similar circumstances but what is apparent is the poor funding of schools and therefore poorer quality of education despite wonderful poorly paid teachers.

Mums can not afford to keep paying for what is a public education and should be free. Education is a right and comparing Canberra to Queensland dramatically explains the different levels in our futures education .

Please ensure that our kids who may not even have future(given the reluctance for Labor to move quickly into being a power house of renewable energy which could keep our levels of warming at bearable ,)

Deserve to be treated kindly and allowed to develop critical thinking which is sadly missing for the large percentage of Queenslanders voted NO in the referendum

Queensland needs to meet 100% of minimum needs funding for education. With the ever-increasing cost of living, quite simply, the basic costs of essential education cannot be worn by households. Continuing to overlook this funding shortfall will be detrimental to the future of our nation.

My child is in prep and already her needs are not being met. Teachers are so overwhelmed they cannot afford distractions or setbacks, I've been called to pick up my child over a blister. Kids don't eat their lunches at school because they have no free time. Children are under supervised and there are too many rules in place to compensate for it. Children's education should be a priority and full of opportunities not just for the upper middle class.

Queensland needs to

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I am a teacher aide, studying my bachelor of education. I see first-hand the gaps in funding at state schools. With unmanageable numbers of big behaviours in every single classroom, teachers need an aide in their room at all times to ensure all students are getting the most of their education.

Your government should serve the people. We elect you to guide and manage funding to serve and facilitate an educated population. In this financial climate all families deserve to feel supported. You could show you support us all of us by:

1: Having fully funded public schools our student communities would be able to access education as equally.

- meet 100% of minimum needs funding

- provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources

Finally, we elect you to support the community, please do so by taking action and fully funding education.

Its more important now than ever before for Queensland to:

- make state education truly free
- meet 100% of minimum needs funding
- provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources

Families are really struggling to feed and clothe their kids and it is becoming more difficult to provide a roof over their heads. This is a major social problem. They simply cannot afford education and children will go to school hungry.

The building block in society is a good education to raise people out of poverty and dependence on the government. This should be a basic right for all Australians.

I am a QLD resident and have two teenagers in the local public school. I have been shocked at how much it costs to send children to public schools. The fees are thousands of dollars a year, the uniform cost are outrageous and then there is the cost for computers and tech. The cost of sending our kids to public school education has contributed to personal, and family stress.

I believe Queensland needs to make state education free so that families can afford to put food on the table.

And so that all children can be seen and treated as equal.

At our children's school, children of parents who cant afford the fees are not permitted to join in extra curricular activities. This creates an unfair environment where the rich kids get more, and the poor kids are penalised due to no fault of their own.

I feel 100% of minimum needs of funding should be met. This again will reduce inequality. And i think extra funding should be allocated to cover extra curricular activities. This will ensure every child has equal opportunity, no matter their family financial situation.

Even without the current hight cost of living pressures, i believe public schools should be free to attend. But now, while cost of living has sky rocketed would be a perfect time to make reforms around this. Give qld families a break. Make school and education opportunities the same for each child.

Queensland needs to

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Queensland needs to ensure our next generation is given the resources to succeed, including helping kids with learning difficulties where the severity of impact can be reduced through early intervention such as dyslexia.

Queensland public school teachers deserve support to be able to complete their jobs. Teachers deserve full-time stable positions rather than endless contracts and no stability. If we want our kids to have a future those who teach them deserve respect, appropriate pay and a system who supports them.

- make state education truly free
 - meet 100% of minimum needs funding
 - provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources
-

I believe that a first world country is best served by a well educated populace. But currently, only people who can afford private schools seem to be entitled to that. I believe that state education should be free for all students. I believe that the divide between funding private schools (who already charge fees, yet also receive additional government funding on top of this?) should be removed. Rewarding religious schools and people who can already afford school fees with additional funding makes the divide deeper between the haves and the have nots - is this the government's plan to recreate a class system? Some terms we have to tell our children they can't have extracurricular activities - because with the cost of living rising, something has to give. And when the decision is between the mortgage, groceries, school supplies or the kids having an extracurricular activity, I hate that I have to disappoint them. But it's the only way to keep a roof over their head and their bellies full.

I have a brother who is currently in year ten and I graduated from school myself in 2022. My memory of the schooling system is still very fresh and there are numerous issues with it that could and should be solved through proper funding. My school had cracked walls, broken bubbles, and faulty toilets throughout my time there. There were even a few lights that didn't work that sometimes weren't fixed for years.

I live in a low income family that is becoming poorer with each passing year. Every year my parents are forced to fork out hundreds of dollars to spend on stationary, textbooks, and excursions. Money that would we could be using to pay the bills and put food on the table. The school finds ways to charge you for everything, presumably to make up for the massive underfunding going on at the state government. They provide a tuckshop where students are able to buy food for lunch but the prices are usually higher than at grocery stores. Schools should be providing free food available to all students. This would be a godsend to poor families who need to save every dollar they can get.

I have a friend who was forced to miss most of his final year of school because his single mother had to work every day and he had to stay behind to take care of his baby sister. On the few days he could attend school, he had to use the school laptops for his work because his family was too poor to buy him one. These school laptops are slow, unreliable, and often years out of date which hindered his ability to perform well. Poverty is a major factor in success at school. Properly funding schools and eliminating out of pocket expenses would lift a financial burden on countless families which I hope everybody can agree is a good thing.

Education is a right. Every child in this country deserves a good education at a quality school without having to shoulder the financial burden or suffer under the effects of underfunding. Education must be free. Please fully fund our education system.

Queensland state schools need to be made priority for full funding. As a parent, I am constantly having to juggle the everyday cost of living pressures and choose which school activities my child can attend. Every in-school activity and excursion requires a significant expense, not to mention the SRS scheme which requires a significant non refundable payment. I have to choose between my child being left out from school excursions and paying the fee, I have to make the tough choice every year on how many uniforms we can afford as once again the prices are exorbitant.

I know this affects the rest of my community, I see parents excluding their children from extra curricular activities. I know that some parents cannot even provide healthy lunches for their children as they have to make tough choices.

If Queensland state education as truly free and

provided extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources, we set up a better future for our children, better education opportunities not limited by cost and opportunities to take part in their community. The current cost of living has a follow on effect in every aspect of life and our children's education should not suffer.

I have 2 grandchildren in the Public school system in Queensland and also am a retired teacher who worked in the Canadian Public school system.

As a result I know how much money my daughter who is a teacher here in Queensland has to spend on supplies for her two children and how much has to be purchased by the parents where she teaches. I contrast it with my teaching experience where there was very little expenditure asked of the parents and the stock cupboards were well supplied by the school budget..

How is it that the Queensland State government under funds public schools by \$1.7 billion/year???

State education needs to be truly free. Moreover, there are so many parents experiencing real financial hardship these days. Education of our young people is crucial for our state and country. There is no better place to fully invest our tax dollars.

As a proud Queenslander I truly believe we need to invest broadly and bravely to stay great, we can do this by:

- making state education truly free
 - meeting 100% of minimum needs funding
 - provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources
-

I am a parent of primary school children and a member of a p&c.

I would like to see a significant increase in school resources,

I think the readers we are replacing this year are 30 years old, and though they have been carefully weeded over time, don't reflect well on our society.

Schools seem to be struggling to make ends meet at every level.

My daughter's school is continuously working to raise funds for her school. This includes activity nights, fetes and also volunteered contributions to fund the school and its resources including inclusion support staffing.

If state school funding was properly supported we would lower the burden on taxpayers for children who slip through the cracks and aren't properly supported. Without this funding and required support, in my opinion we open ourselves up to increases in youth crime, workforce skills shortages and government dependency.

Queensland needs to

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I'm a State School teacher. I'm very out of pocket in order to teach my classes.

I worked for Queensland Education for 22 years full time and 12 years part time. During that time our department was always struggling to find ways to supply students with the necessary items for their education. I personally used to purchase pens pencils paper so that students could do their work. (I worked in a lower socially deprived area) I was always upset when I compared the amount given to private schools per student compared to public. It did not matter which party was in office, public were always behind

- make state education truly free

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I am a parent and Ila teacher at a state school.

Our school is magnificent at managing expenses, and the pennies we'll and truly stretch far.

But we can't do it all.

I'm the area we live, many students miss out on many life-enriching experiences with their families, due to a multitude of reasons.

But as a school, we strive to help provide a well/rounded childhood. This includes excursions for every year level to expand their world, incursions, real-world projects, a multitude of play adventures and many many opportunities to try new things.

But, costs are rising.

And I'm noticing more families opting out if paying bus fares and other small costs I, like even basic black tights and shirts for performance work.

This leads to the load being placed on teachers.

Or the kids miss out.

I also notice equipment the is aging and wears out, isn't able to be replaced. Meaning our kids are missing out on the enriching lunch activities that help them develop social I, emotional and body skills.

It also means that our real-world projects, that engage many of our kids, become more hypothetical and abstract, and they lack the hands/on equipment to truly explore it. This in turns means that many of our learners disengage. And as a school, we battle disengagement enough due to the low sociocultural levels if many of our families.

To be funded to our true level, would mean that our kids would have the chance to have their world expanded everyday, to have the lunch times that enrich them, and means families know that their local state school truly is as great as the local private school.

Where we live shouldn't determine the quality of education we have.

Every school should be creating well/rounded young people who understand their place in the world, because they have experienced their world.

Better funding would mean that technology keeps up with our rapidly changing world, and our kids know how to engage with, and responsibly use it.

It also means assessment can be completed and submitted in a timely manner.

Better funding would also mean the right level of teacher, teacher aide and support teachers to help meet our increasingly complex student needs. One teacher just can NOT meet the needs across the diverse neurological, behavioural and social-emotional needs of students. So we let them down if we burn out.

We need more staff, with the right training, in our schools.

Better funding would also mean basic needs like functioning air conditioners, in our ever changing climate I, actually work, and teachers and students alike make it thru the school day.

Our children and thus the future of our country deserve better!!

A high standard of education should not be available for just those children with wealthy parents.

Please ensure that every child has the opportunity to reach its full potential by providing the funding necessary.

My name is Callum and I live with my wife and three school age children in [LOCATION REMOVED]. With respect to the subject of public school funding in QLD, below are my thoughts:

- providing this and future generations with truly free public schooling only makes sense. With the relief of financial and resource pressures teachers and students will have be able to focus on what they are at school to do, learning.

- it goes without saying that bare minimum requirements for running a state school should be covered by the state. Why make educating our young people harder than it needs to be. It shouldn't even be a question that teachers and students are provided with the minimum that need.

- with the immense financial and cost of living pressures on families these days it only makes for the state to relieve some of this pressure by covering extra costs encountered by families. Why should some children miss out on extra curricular activities because their families can't afford it and basic things like uniforms and equipment.

- here is an example from my child's school and how her education is affected by poor funding. She is in a class with a number of high needs neuro divergent children, which is fine, except there is not enough funding for support teachers to assist these children. Therefore as my child as a well behaved she is always put near these kids in the hope that her good behaviour will help to influence theirs. The result is my child being constantly distracted and pestered and having trouble concentrating on her work for which her grades are suffering.

I believe that our state schools need to be completely free due to the lack of housing we currently have. If people/families can not afford to rent how can we pay school fees and other Nessesary items for our children. We already pay for so much and the increase in daily living is harder every day. As a parent who is on centrelink I am or will find it had to help provide my children with what they need to attend school and or camps if i have to pay school fees. I am a mother of 4 so the daily living costs are alot more than expected and i am currently living week to week or pay to pay if you want more details.

We truly struggle as it is and i believe that our families need help some where for us to help our future. We need to think about our future and that is our children who are losing out because we can not afford it. Why is our government not helping those who need it the most?

I am 77years old and was fortunate to have my primary and secondary education provided by QLD State Government funded schools.

I have watched with alarm the poor support often provided to this essential State school service while the private education industry expanded.

We need to ensure that all our young people have the same opportunities to learn and succeed.

We need equal opportunities provided by excellent teachers and equal funding to our state Schools

Our children have missed out on critical investment for too long, increased funding is overdue to set out children up to succeed and contribute to our community.

I am a teacher at a Queensland State School and a parent of two [children] at attending a Queensland State High School.

As a teacher the lack of funding to schools directly affects the outcomes I can provide for all students in my classroom. Lack of funding for the 75 year old building means that constant maintenance on buildings is taken from the same amount that newer schools receive for the same. The buildings are old and potentially dangerous and lack basic amenities such as water availability in the room. The funds to maintain our school needs to come from other areas and our students support if effected.

I have students in my year 6 class that are not support by staff even though they have a diagnosed disability at a their three level. The highest level. One hour of support a day for a child who needs one on one support to participate in class . This then leads to his education lacking as I also need to support other students who have a variety of learning Disabilities and behaviour issues. As one person in a classroom it is impossible to provide individual support . This is what is burning out teachers. When extra support is asked for the response is always there isn't enough funding to provide teachers aides and psychologists. I spend a lot of my own personal money to buy resources for students as many come to school without stationary and text books and even food. I buy positive rewards for students to encourage good behaviour.

The administration is struggling to follow up on negative behaviour at school and really need another deputy to help with the demands of the students, teachers and parents.

This year I have been forced to transfer to a new school. I question to cost of moving teachers around and treating them as a number when we don't have enough support and admin staff.

My children's school is also struggling to deal with negative behaviour at High school and I assume they are in the same situation we are in Primary School.

By not supporting schools we are then pushing the problem into the community with youth crime, domestic violence and mental health issues.

I have an example in my class which I cannot talk about here but I have seen how a child can spiral into crime within one year.

If something isn't done soon you will start to see good teachers leave due to poor physical and mental health. As teachers we push ourselves for the care we take on as part of our job. But I know many are at their last straw.

This is a problem for the whole community I don't know if I can convey how challenging it is in schools right now through this letter. I hope that this committee can encourage our government to help our schools before it is too late.

As a support worker in a school in one of the poorest electorates in the country, I see how difficult it is for parents to afford the basics for their kids, let alone any extras such as camps. If more funding was provided, those parents could provide children with shoes that fit, better quality food and more. This would make learning easier for the students, resulting in better educational outcomes.

More funding is needed to assist those students who have a need based on a physical, intellectual or mental disability. The way teachers have to teach now, using terminology that isn't used anywhere else (automaticity is my favourite) is hard enough for students who have no disability and/or are low income and is so very much harder for those who do.

Let us return to play based learning for preps. Age 4 and 5 is simply far too young for formal education. It is boring for little people, discouraging them rather than fostering a love of learning.

Our children deserve a better educational system and improved funding is a part of that.

I am Queensland state high school teacher and have been teaching for a decade. In the span of my career, I have seen student needs significantly increase, student literacy significantly decrease and have felt increasingly less able to provide my students with the level of support that they need. There isn't the budget in high schools to provide significant literacy intervention. I do not have enough teacher aides in my room to sufficiently meet everyone's needs. There isn't the budget in schools to provide enough teacher aides and as they are not adequately paid for the level of service provided, there also aren't enough of them. I was recently physically assaulted in a school by a student and it is a regular occurrence for aides to experience physical assault. We really need to be paying them properly and we need to be providing teachers more support so that behaviours can be properly managed - this requires adequate staffing!!! This year, due to budget cuts, I had to change curriculum that we had been teaching for years because we couldn't resource the unit. Schools are also spending tens of thousands of dollars repairing facilities that have been vandalised by students and they need additional funding to deliver behaviour and wellbeing intervention programs to identified students to prevent further vandalism or worse, having those children involved in the court system. I am not suggesting spending money on external experts, I am saying schools are at their allocation of teacher hours and cannot allocate teachers where need is evident. Schools do not tell their teachers when students are involved in youth crime, but I know of a couple students from my school being convicted of crimes. Parents and families are finding the cost of living to be increasingly difficult to manage. This is causing stress at home, caregivers to be less available and families to find it harder to access doctors or psychiatrists for learning disability diagnosis. The funding model that we have is that students who are identified are provided with some support at school. I will regularly speak to parents who suspect their child of learning needs but there are long waitlists in the public system and so despite mine and the parent's best efforts, we are only able to provide minimal support to a student with visible but not verified learning needs. Morale is low for teachers across the state and many are looking forward to retirement, moving to the private system or considering changing careers. We love being in the classroom but the job is exhausting and we are fighting a losing battle. This is not news to anyone in the profession but as we are not allowed to speak to any form of media, our voices are not amplified in public discourse.

A robust, flourishing society and a thriving economy begins with the education of its members. Educated people make better decisions about their lives. Please make the state education system better by funding it fully and effectively.

I strongly think that Queensland needs to

- make state education truly free
- meet 100% of minimum needs funding
- provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources.

I am currently employed as a teacher at [REMOVED FOR CONFIDENTIALITY]. My son will attend this school in 2025 for prep and continue through.

The students at this school are beginning to be left behind as the school can't afford devices for students and there are many in the community who not be able to afford a BYOD.

The community is home to Madonna House (a home for those fleeing domestic violence) The children of these families need access to support that the school's current budget cannot afford. This has a ripple effect on the school community. That includes effecting the mental and physical well-being of staff and students. All because a school cannot get the funding that the government said they would have access to.

I am not a parent or current teacher in a state school but am a retired teacher and a member of St Vincent de Paul.

This year our local SVDP is supporting approximately 130 families, mostly in the state education primary and secondary schools to cover the cost of uniforms, shoes and stationery for the 2024 school year..The cost of stationery to families, if done through school levies is in \$120 to \$150 per student in most of the schools. All secondary students in our local state high schools must provide their own Laptop/device. The cost of the specified item is between \$800 and \$1000. We are hoping to supply at least 20 of our poorest families with a Laptop for school entry (Yr7) in 2024. We can only do this through using GIVT and an incredibly generous local donor.

THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT FREE EDUCATION. Many of our families are struggling to put food on the table. They should not have come up with well over \$1000 to put their son/daughter into Year 7 as well as around \$300 or more for any other children. Education should be fully funded in our state schools.

Children and their knowledge is not only they key to future progression, our very lives will be in their hands, and its up to us to make sure they have the skills to not only clean up the steaming mess we made for them, but to care for us when we dig ourselves too deep. just like every generation winds up doing for the one before them.

Free education in public schools should be just that, free. Especially when the government has a large surplus. No excuses.

Queensland schools are good schools but they struggle for funds to provide infrastructure for leaning.

We need to

- make state education truly free
- meet 100% of minimum needs funding
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My children are at a public school in [LOCATION REMOVED] with over 1000 children, many of them from struggling families. They need support to get their kids to school, and the school needs more resources to support them.

It is extremely important that all children have access to a free quality education. State schools in Queensland are currently under funded meaning that children are missing out on that quality education essential for society and our leaders of tomorrow. I ask the following:

- make state education truly free
 - meet 100% of minimum needs funding
 - provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources
-

Investment in education is an investment in Australia. Countless studies prove that investment in our children through education provides overwhelming returns; both financial and quality of life.

Why go into politics if you're not trying to make peoples lifes better?

Queensland needs to

- make state education truly free
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-

I am writing to express my disappointment at the poor performance of your government at ensuring Qld. Children get the best possible education and opportunities, it is a fundamental right as set out by the UN and there is no excuse for the current situation.

One of the tenets of Labour has always been fairness. And isn't fair that children in Queensland get less financial support and opportunity with their education than they would other states. They are our future and shouldn't be disadvantaged because our free education is less free than it would be elsewhere. They shouldn't have to go to school handicapped by their parents not being able to afford the clothes, iPads and other equipment that they need to take part in our state education system.

Fully funded public education is a basis for equitable and truly democratic society. Where learning opportunities and activities in public schools are only available to some but not all students, like it is the case in our suburb, and in our primary school, these students are learning from the start that they are not all equally important and that not all voices truly count. They are learning that not everyone has to care, and take a stance, because not everyone's stance will matter.

The elitist choices are never the best choices when solving the tough problems. Mobilising all resources is always a superior option.

If we want schools to serve as a ground in which our better, more fair, and truly democratic future can grow, a future that can deal with the difficult challenges of sustainability and care, then it is essential to make state education truly free. This must involve funding that meets 100% of minimum needs in all schools, as well as extra funding that would allow to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources, at the very minimum as a need-based option.

Queensland, these are YOUR children you are raising, do not treat them as if they did not matter.

The experience of school is what Australian society grows out of. It is the interface between the State and the individual, in contrast to the interface between the individual and the family, and the quality of that interface determines the future relationship between the State and adults. The more individual attention our kids get, the better the teachers at delivering individual attention, the greater the quality of that interaction and the better the outcome. All of this is resource

and management dependent. Teachers have to have time available to do this, and that costs. We cannot afford not to maximise the resources we direct towards supporting this endeavour.

This is just to let you know why I believe that free education is absolutely imperative for the success of our society. For a democracy to function correctly, its citizenry must be capable of making good decisions and critical thinking so as not to be misled by politically motivated media.

Furthermore, an educated population reduces brain drain and helps Australia remain competitive internationally, especially in science, engineering, finance, business, and all kinds of knowledge work.

All successful societies provide some level of free education; a society that does not fund education is headed towards decline.

When education is free, it becomes easier to adopt new industries (such as renewable energy), because there is less fear about losing jobs. When people can learn new skills at no cost, there is less concern about becoming unemployable, and people are less likely to fearfully defend obsolete industries and business practices.

Ideally education, including primary, secondary, and tertiary education, would be free for all ages. This would produce the best outcomes for Australia. However, if a compromise is necessary, I suggest making education free up to the age of 25, which is approximately when the development of the physical brain is complete.

Decreased cost of education will reduce alcoholism and drug addiction, mental illness, unemployment, homelessness, poverty, domestic violence, and produce a smarter, happier, healthier, and wealthier society.

Also, if publicly funded schools have markedly fewer resources than private schools, this sets up a system of haves and have nots, which is not the Australian way. The Australian way has always been about fairness ” let's keep it that way. Public schools need the very best possible facilities in order to produce the best results.

Australia has the potential to be an international leader in numerous areas due to our unique prosperity, geography, culture, and international relations. But to achieve this requires smart people, which isn't automatic ” it requires affordable access to the best available educational resources.

I would like the state government to fund schools up to a point that out-of-pocket expenses are zero for every parent and guardian in the great state of Queensland. It's talking about school fees, school excursions, mandatory items like iPads (already compulsory in grade 1 at my school) and the school supplies like pens and exercise books that us parents always to pay for every year. There are several reasons for this.

1. It is the right thing to do.
 2. Queensland has the budget to do this, with its immense resource base.
 3. It would be electorally popular.
 4. Lots of parents in Queensland cannot afford school expenses. They're skipping meals or skipping on paying utility bills to get them through the day, and find it hard to afford rent either. So they skip on things like school excursions as "luxuries". This means their kids miss out (and feel discriminated against).
-

I work as an outdoor education instructor working with state schools to provide school camp experiences for both primary and secondary school students.

Although school camps are an extra-curricular activity, they are hugely beneficial to students by providing leadership, teambuilding, initiative and overall personal growth opportunities, and with every camp that students attend, I hear feedback from teachers about how much our students have both enjoyed our activities and grown from their participation. Teachers also report that school camps have an ongoing positive effect on students once back in the classroom, with students better able to connect with one another and to be more resilient in facing challenges.

However, every school also has children who are unable to attend for financial reasons, which isolates them from their peers and denies them these opportunities. If the Labor government is able to make state education fully free and provide additional funding for out-of-pocket costs for extra-curricular activities such as school camps, these students who are currently missing out through no fault of their own would have access to the same benefits that their classmates enjoy and they as well would be able to grow and develop from these opportunities.

I ask that the committee please take action on this matter and improve the financial situation for our state's struggling students and families by helping with educational costs.

Queensland Schools are grossly underfunded which is limiting the potential of our young people.

A well educated person is an asset to society so I request that 100% of the minimum funds required to have a fully functional public school system should be allocated to state schools. This funding should also include out-of-pocket expenses like school fees and

Write your thoughts on why Queensland needs to

- make state education truly free
 - meet 100% of minimum needs funding
 - provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources.
-

I was appalled to discover that Queensland sits last in the rankings of percent of public funding for state schools. As a grandmother of three children who attend Qld state schools (with 2 more to enter in the future), I urge you to support the 'Helping Families with School Costs Bill'.

It is well known that early education is a strong determinant of how well teenagers and adults cope in society. It is an investment in the future of the state to use some of the wealth generated by corporate taxes and mining royalties to adequately fund our state schools.

It is hard to nominate a more critical area for investment than the education of our young people. That education should be of the highest quality and it should be completely free. No Queensland child should be denied this - we are a wealthy state currently sitting on a \$12B surplus - we can afford this, in fact, we can't not afford it.

The next generation has already been denied so much before they even start - a rapidly warming climate and degrading ecosystem, the likely impossibility of ever being able to afford their own home - unless they happen to have been born into wealth, increasingly insecure work in a gig economy, it really does go on. The least we can do is empower them with a world class education.

It's your turn, Committee - do the right thing and create a strong and prosperous Queensland of the future, where every child can hold their head up high and our teachers are fully supported to do what they love.

Lift the funding of state schools to where it should be - 100% funded. And respect teachers by demanding only the very best apply and paying them in kind.

It has come to my attention that Queensland is the lowest funding state for education. Despite my 8 year old son attending his local state primary school, each year we need to pay out of pocket fees for compulsory teaching and essential equipment such as an ipad. We are struggling financially and this is very hard for us to meet.

Please:

- make state education truly free
 - meet 100% of minimum needs funding
 - provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources
-

Queensland need to make education truly free for all state schools. A basic education is the right of every child and should not be left up to parents to fund. Education can help lift people out of poverty, and make society better for everyone. Increased education leads to lower crime and better health of the population. Enabling state schools to be free to parents stops the poverty gap from widening. Extra funding supplied by the government would allow activities such as languages or sports to enrich the lives of children. Giving everyone a fair go regardless of background or financial situation is the spirit of Australia, and the reason it's one of the best places in the world to live.

Queensland needs to step up it's treatment of state schools to be the best in Australia. With the Olympics coming, schooling and public services will be in view of the whole world, so we need to make sure we put our best foot forward. Providing 100% free state schooling would go a long way to showing the world how great Queensland is.

As a teacher, last financial year I spent \$1500 on classroom supplies. I was able to get some of that back on tax. But it would be nice if schools were funded for stationary and consumables as not all of my students come to school with the things they need or they run out and parents can't afford more with the cost of living pressures.

Also as a teacher I do alot of unpaid hours trying to keep on top of the demands of the job.

The extra hours can be detrimental to my well-being as I'm missing out on sleep or the downtime I need to relax after long stressful work days.

There needs to be more funding so teachers don't need to be out of pocket for legitimate classroom necessities like books, pencils, laminating pouches, paper and all the rest.

Also it'd be nice if schools were funded for additional staff to support students with extra needs and for resources that save teachers time with administration and planning.

Having a good public education system is the bedrock of a highly functional first world nation. It is what provides for the leaders, professionals and people to come, those that will make real, tangible decisions about your future as a person working today.

Having appropriate funding for this part of the education of young people every is critical to keeping our nation as one with clever thinkers, who make maintain our economy, push our environmental sustainability, encourage good policy and keep the system running to provide for all of those within it.

There is a knock-on effect, whereby the cutting of funding, trickles down to eventuate in the cutting of learning, development, opportunity, exposure and support for the learning of our young ones.

What could be more important.

Why, in the lucky country, do we repeatedly burden families with the cost of a public education?

Take note paper, pencils, glue and other basic classroom materials. Supplies that go into general stationery stores that the school staff controls. Why isn't the school funded to cover these basic items?

Why is there a 'voluntary levy of \$250/year' which is of course not voluntary or optional.

I am aware that P&C committees manage to uniform policy of individual schools but I'm also aware that the state government oversees P&C committees and can direct them to abandon the costly, out of date, and elitist situation. From my observations it only causes more expense, stress, and work for the family. The state government nor school wear the cost of school uniforms. If you are not paying the bill then you don't get to decide what my child wears.

My conclusion is that the state government is either negligent, apathetic or incompetent. None of which looks good.

Queensland needs to

- make state education truly free
- meet 100% of minimum needs funding
- provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources

Only when all of the above are fulfilled will our state schools be able to compete with private schools.

Every child deserves a quality education regardless of their financial situation. In order to protect the rights of children in state schools we need to increase funding and

- make state education truly free

- meet 100% of minimum needs funding

- provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources

While our children are grown I write for future generations. Our sons were fortunate. They attended a properly resourced Public primary and high school here in Brisbane.

Education, like safe housing, is not a privilege. It is a fundamental right. Properly resourced free education brings multiple benefits to the community. A discussion outside the parameters of this email.

There IS NO EXCUSE to not:

- make state education truly free
 - meet 100% of minimum needs funding
 - provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources
-

People are poor. It was true 20 years ago, when I taught in an Ipswich school, and it's only got worse since. Parents are bombarded with demands for extra money. "You don't have to pay, but you have to beg, to justify not paying!"

People don't want to think of themselves as bad parents. They pay up, whatever the cost to their family.. This 'user pays' extortion championed by the conservatives should be anathema to a Labor government.

On the teaching front, there are not enough teachers. Class sizes are too big. Politicians took fright when they realised that smaller class sizes meant more classrooms!

Cost cutting and control of teachers has been the focus, Experienced teachers were paid to leave! The focus has not been on the children. Not on the quality of the education provided. And every year, those responsible complain about the quality of the teachers!

We abolished a lot of the special schools, against the wishes of the parents. Integration was supposed to be socially-preferable. We were assured that schools would get 'extra' funding to deal with the extra need. You know how that went.

I was teaching mathematics. My school Principal decreed that maths textbooks were not to be provided for the students. I said I could get them for free. No dice. I asked why. I was told teachers are lazy, and that they must prepare handouts for the kids. Perhaps that was just covering for a shortage of money?

Of course, the photocopier money ran out very early in the year. Parents who were paying attention would have wanted to buy their children textbooks, but they're very expensive!

I'm curious why we think it's a good idea to have a Budget Surplus. Is it money not spent, or is it being spent somewhere else? If not spent, why not spend it, bearing in mind the federal government will use it to fend off your requests for extra money?

Sincerely,

With the imminent review of the school funding forward program for QLD, I would like to take this opportunity to plead to the State government that education should not be based on status or wealth. It should be available to all. Right now there is a shortfall of \$1.7bn in funding for QLD schools every year. This is a disgrace!

Meanwhile every year more funding gets pumped into private schools at the expense of public schools. This is akin to the slow privatisation of a schooling system. And as a Labor government this is disgraceful to allow this to continue.

So take this opportunity when you are negotiation with the Labor Federal government, to rectify this social injustice.

A quality education should be free to all. The state will reap the rewards if it is.

Write your thoughts on why Queensland needs to

- make state education truly free
 - meet 100% of minimum needs funding
 - provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources
-

The funding of public schools in Qld has been slowly but surely declining over the years. Education for all should be truly free. Families already doing at tough are expected to pay annual school fees and cover all sorts of extra fees for vital extra-curricular activities...or their children miss out. These are already the most needy!

Lack of funding leads to fewer teachers, fewer school resources and ultimately to a poorer quality of education. Quality education should be an absolute priority for the state and the nation. Without decent educational standards which are dependent on decent funding our state (and our nation) is doomed too be relegated too 2nd or 3rd raters . While the Feds continue too top up elite private and catholic schools the public system withers.

Qld must meet 100% of minimum funding. It's our future!

Education should have equitable access for all, not just being able to turn up to a school but also to engage in all activities that form an all round education experience.

I am a parent of a state school and on the P&C where we fundraise tirelessly all year to ensure there is equity among students to go on camps, engage in swimming lessons and attend other sports events where income may prevent them.

As a priority please

- make state education truly free
 - meet 100% of minimum needs funding
 - provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources
-

Queensland has just been hoodwinked by a vicious campaign of misinformation and lies.

People in my electorate have been traumatised at having to vote without the least idea how to assess the value of the campaigns. This has set them back to pioneering terror of First Nations needs and right to be treated with respect in a shared life on this land.

At the same time, the local school principal has such a stringent budget that a local NFP is being charged \$25.00 an hour to provide public access to the Education Department's pool, the only one in the community.

Meanwhile, in a complete travesty of the Gonski recommendations, private schools are taking their already privileged students on canoeing excursions and interstate trips

For rural families unable to pay boarding fees, the wealth and rural-urban divides become greater, and exacerbate the entrenched xenophobia that the referendum result demonstrates.

Please,

- make state education truly free
 - meet 100% of minimum needs funding
 - include critical thinking in the education of all teachers and students
 - provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources
-

I have three children attending Queensland State schools. I believe in and have always supported our public school system, but increasing costs are a concern for our family.

Our local primary school P and C raises a lot of money to help support our kids with costs of camps, excursions, playgrounds, facilities, computers, library books, transport for swimming lessons, excursions, incursions and many other things. However, there are still many out of pocket costs to cover the full cost all of these things. With more than one child, the costs can really mount up, particularly when all three kids have a camp in the same year, or need new uniforms or big ticket items like laptops, which are now a compulsory requirement for high school, but which parents are required to supply.

At the start of this year, I was required to buy my first daughter a lap top when she started high school, on top of paying for a full set of new uniforms, resource fees, excursion and sporting costs, and a school camp. I will be required to buy another lap top for my second daughter as she starts high school next year, along with her uniforms and other costs all over again.

The labour government has always supported free and equal access to education so I was surprised to learn that education in Queensland is not fully funded and that Queensland schools receive a smaller percentage of funding than schools in other states.

Please make state education truly free. The government should meet 100% of minimum needs funding and where possible, the government should provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources.

My name is [REMOVED FOR CONFIDENTIALITY] from [LOCATION REMOVED]. In a few years my toddlers will be starting primary school and it would be great if school were fully funded so I didn't have to worry about my kids education adding even more financial stress. We're not that poor, but we do live in one of the poorest parts of town and some of our neighbours can't afford to fill the funding gap left by the state government. That means that these poor kids won't receive the same education as kids a couple of suburbs over and they're more likely to stay poor. School funding contributes to the poverty cycle. Let's fix that.

Please make Qld state education truly free

And meet 100% of minimum needs funding.

Including providing extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources. Personally I would also like to see free healthy meals provided at all state schools, Specially low socioeconomic areas in Qld.

Queensland needs to

- make state education truly free
- meet 100% of minimum needs funding
- provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources.

I work at a special school in a disadvantaged area. My students frequently come to school unwashed, without lunch, and wearing the same clothes, only owning one uniform. For them the playing field is far from level on every front.

We need to reduce the costs for parents of getting children into classes seeing as it is mandatory to send children to school.

Schools definitely need more resources. As a person who works at a school, we need way more staff to cover the ever increasing children with behaviours of concern. We need more training for specialist Teacher Aides to be present in each class permanently. We are finding that the serious tier three students are appearing in Prep. This is very concerning and the staffing requirements are not being met to cover the increasing needs of the students. Once funding runs out that student is then "dropped like a hot potato" because that staff member is then taken away from that child after all the effort of building friendship and rapport with them. The child is then left devastated. This does more damage than good. Teacher Aides also need a pay increase of at least \$200 per week for the amount of workload they have with children of special needs. The brunt of the hours looking after children that run out of the classroom and won't come back in, is bore by the Teacher Aides. It is stressful and exhausting work. The risks of being assaulted by a student or their projectiles is very high. Teacher Aides have to go to TAFE to do their education support certificate, and the pay they receive, should reflect the education and para professionalism of the position they hold.

There should be extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources, uniforms and the almost unobtainable annual school camps. Most families that are struggling and on the edge of poverty, cannot meet the costs of uniforms, books, reflex photocopying paper for the school!!! Who ever heard of parents having to provide photocopying paper for a school to use and tissue boxes??? That is absurd. All stationary should be provided by the government to look after it's own citizens like a government is supposed to.

I've been a member of P&C and P&Fs for over a decade. In that time I've fundraising literally \$100,000+ to support schools meet the needs of their students. I'm not talking the "nice to have" stuff, but critical furniture, tables and chairs for classrooms, water coolers, shade structures for sun safety.

Our P&C created, funds and administers (in conjunction with school teachers) a Hardship Fund to help families doing it tough. We established this 10 years ago and the need now has never been greater. We help kids with uniforms, stationary supplies, cost of attending incursions and excursions.

It's just a disgrace that volunteer parents need to organise fundraising events to pay for essential school supplies and out-of-pocket costs.

State education should be truly free and the Qld Government should meet 100% of minimum funding needs.

My children's education is important to me, as is the equity and opportunities for their friends and peers, whose families should not have to make difficult choices that jeopardise their opportunities.

I want to see all families have equal and free access to a state school education. It is heartbreaking to see children in my community suffer the indignity of missing out on the opportunities of their friends and peers because their parents, who are burdened with the ever-worsening cost of living, cannot afford the out-of-pocket expenses at school.

In a state that values equality of opportunity, where corporate profits are soaring and we are sitting on a \$12 billion surplus, there's no excuse for underfunding state schools.

The Queensland Government once cared enough about being the 'Smart State' that it paid thousands to trademark the term. Adequately funding state schools would go a long way to restoring that reputation.

Please act now to:

- make state education truly free
 - meet 100% of minimum needs funding
 - provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources
-

I'm writing to express my personal experience as a member of our community and to entreat the members of committee to keep in mind two things as they make their decisions on the upcoming budget for education; the first is the life altering impact quality education has on the lives of our children, and the second is how wealth should not determine the limits of a child's dreams.

As an educator myself and an active family member in the lives of several of my primary and highschool aged relatives - access to education has always been a point of pride for me in this country. My family are not wealthy, without the public education system I would never have been afforded the opportunities I received that allowed me to pursue my dreams - I recently graduated from the University of Queensland with first class honours, something that without the passion, support and resources my teachers had at their disposal - I would never have been able to do. Should children like me be denied this chance? Without sufficient funding our children will never become a scientist or a teacher, we will never produce a great mind in our public schools if we do not foster them.

I am so very fortunate to live in a state that cares about education, that cares about uplifting our children. Quality education is the defining factor of a child's success later in life. Education has widely be lauded as the silver bullet to end cycles of poverty that rob our children of their futures and potential. No child should be left behind, no child should fall through the cracks and no child should grow up unable to read because their parents were unable to send them to a private school.

One of the biggest factors that affect a child's literacy and numeracy is parental education level. 1% of yr 5 children whose guardians have a bachelor's degree fail to meet the minimum literacy and numeracy standards, compare that with the fact that 14% of children whose guardians did not complete Yr 12 that fail to meet that minimum standard (Source: AIHW 2020). How is this fair? How can we hold our heads high and proudly declare we care about our children if we don't make an effort? Investing in our children's education, giving them the reasouces and funding they deserve now, has a tangible impact on the next generation. By funding education now, we support the futures of our current children and we secure the future of their children. Moreover, ensuring equity in education now, saves us money in the future by reducing the need for remedial learning support programs in future. A safety net needs not catch children if we fix the cracks in the pavement to begin with.

I implore the committee to uphold the promises we make to our children that their futures should be better than ours, I implore the committee to meet 100% of the minimum needs funding of our schools, I implore the committee to make our schools truely equitable by providing funds to cover out-of-pocket costs disadvantaged families cannot. A quality

public education is the shining pride of this state and it is up to us to offer it to our children as it was offered to us.

I thank you for your attention.

Queensland needs to

- make state education truly free
- meet 100% of minimum needs funding
- provide extra funding to cover out-of-pocket costs like school fees, extra-curricular activities, and school resources

People are struggling with the costs of living at this time. Children have human rights to education, and shouldn't have to worry about school expenses on top of everything else.
