

Jo Briskey
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November 22, 2017

Dear Jo,

Thank you for your request for a response from the Queensland Greens about our plans to ensure Queensland children, youth and adults have access to premier standards of education and training.

Parents and educators alike understand that education empowers people to live purposeful, satisfying lives and enables us to participate fully as citizens in an effective democracy.

The Queensland Greens will provide equitable access to a quality education for all students. We believe that all all people are entitled to free, well-funded and high quality, life-long public education and training. We are committed to accessibility for all – regardless of socio-economic or cultural background, religious belief, disability or geographic location. This includes permanent residents and refugees.

The Queensland Greens will increase funding to public education through funding models for all sectors of the education system that prioritise public education. We will ensure that the viability and diversity of existing public schools is not endangered by the development of new non-government schools, and stop moves towards the privatisation and outsourcing of education. We will fund schools based on the needs of students, including additional funding to address disadvantage, and support initiatives which encourage high quality teachers to work in schools servicing disadvantaged populations.

The Queensland Greens will increase specialist teachers and support services for students with special needs, those at educational risk, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, and students from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) communities. Furthermore, we will include the history, culture and contemporary experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the school curriculum, and in the training and professional development of all teachers. We'll increase resource allocation for the teaching of community languages in public primary and secondary schools, and well-resourced centres for the study of community languages and trade-specific English language courses.

By actively working towards smaller class sizes throughout the public education system we will achieve manageable workloads for all educators and the best educational outcomes for all students.

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The Queensland Greens will ensure vocational education and training (VET) is publicly funded and primarily provided through the public TAFE system and ensure VET funding priorities balance student needs, employer demand and providing skills in satisfying and sustainable employment. This will include phasing out the public funding of privately funded VET where TAFE can provide the same educational and training outcomes. We will concertedly reject competitive tendering and entitlement-based funding for TAFE. Furthermore, we will redress the over-casualisation of TAFE teaching by introducing a benchmark of 80 per cent of teaching by permanent staff throughout public and private VET providers. In rural and regional Queensland, we will subsidise travel for students to TAFE colleges, and substantially increase the availability of apprenticeships.

Our schools and TAFES urgently need maintenance. The Queensland Greens will adequately fund public education infrastructure for capital works and maintenance to create an optimal learning environment whilst meeting the highest environmental sustainability standards. We will ensure public education infrastructure and land remains in public ownership and control, and where has happened, direct the proceeds into a fund for the construction of new public schools and buildings.

Decision making in education should be open to input from teachers and their unions, academics, parents and students. In addition, we will ensure there is adequate community input through independent advisory bodies to government on training and education issues.

The Queensland Greens reject corporate style moves to impose performance based pay for school teachers and other educators, since it undermines the cooperative environment that is essential to achieving the best educational outcomes, cannot be fairly implemented and discriminates against disadvantaged schools and students. This will inevitably place downward pressure on overall pay and conditions.

Testing is a hot issue. It is time to make decisions about curriculum, testing, reporting and teaching in consultation with appropriate educational experts, teachers, parents, students and other stakeholders. National and state testing should only be used for analysis of trend data and as a pedagogical aid to teachers, and not as a basis for judging performance of individual teachers or schools.

Both students and teachers need to feel supported, empowered and listened to. We support programs that aim to engage parents in the schooling of children. As students develop, we would seek to encourage participation by students at age-appropriate levels in decision making within educational institutions.

Not all regions are homogenous, not all schools are the same. We will allow

educational communities to respond to local needs when this does not deprive children of the opportunity to achieve equitable outcomes and support the delivery of alternative pedagogies in public and independent schools.

The Queensland Greens resist the corporatisation of public education. We will ensure that schools and curriculum materials are free from corporate sponsorship and influence including the use of sponsors' material or logos

We will explicitly implement education funding across all sectors that does not include or promote competition, privatisation, outsourcing, and other market based mechanisms; noting that such mechanisms undermine standards and integrity and do not further the complex policy objectives of our education system.

The Greens have a comprehensive suite of policies and initiatives with respect to education and training, which can be found at the links below:

Queensland Greens Education Policy <https://greens.org.au/policies/qld/education>

Universal Childcare <https://greens.org.au/qld/childcare>

Queensland Public Infrastructure Bank <https://greens.org.au/qld/infrastructure>

Building a Sustainable University Sector <https://greens.org.au/uni-funding>

Save TAFE <https://greens.org.au/save-tafe>

Education Equality <https://greens.org.au/education-equality>

Thank you for the opportunity to share our policies and vision for the education of Queensland's children, youth and adults.

Kind Regards,



Penny Allman-Payne
Convenor, Queensland Greens