

EDUCATION

Education

Family First views education as the cornerstone to developing and equipping young Australians to assure theirs and the nation's future.

The Party believes that education should provide a person with a learning environment that fosters their holistic development builds strong foundations for later life. Family First believes an environment that encourages pursuit of excellence in the intellectual, social, emotional and physical spheres, along with sound understanding of Australian heritage and culture will best fit our young people with life skills and necessary competencies.

Specifically

1. Family First acknowledges the diversity of beliefs, traditions and values within Australian homes and will:

- Defend parents' rights to choose schooling that supports their family's values
 - Seek the introduction of character and life skills development into schools' curriculum
 - Improve and broaden the provision of financial life skills education
 - Defend the right of independent schools to employ staff who uphold the values of their school community
2. Family First will promote and support measures to reduce class sizes and increase literacy levels.
3. Family First will aim to give every family member a 'fair go' through equality of access to education by:
- Continuing to promote recognition of governmental responsibilities to support parental choice in education and the parent's role as a primary educator of their children
 - Supporting funding equity between private and public education to ensure no child is disadvantaged because of geographical, social or economic factors or regardless of children have been placed into the private or public education system
 - Promoting increased levels of accountability to parents and community and national standards in all schools
4. Family First recognises the valuable and necessary contribution that universities and other post secondary learning institutions make to Australian economic and social prosperity and will:
- Fight to increase funding for tertiary institutions to ensure the maintenance of high standards and increased levels of competitiveness globally
 - Support the reduction of HECS

- Support reforms that promote improved research, teaching and learning outcomes