



**Julian Leaser MP**  
Shadow Minister for Education  
Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians  
Federal Member for Berowra

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## **SECONDARY EDUCATION COSTS NOW RISING TWICE AS FAST AS WAGES**

CPI data released today confirms that education costs continue to rise faster than general inflation, sitting at 4.8%. Secondary education is the main contributor, with costs rising 6.6% over the 12 months to April 2026.

Shadow Education Minister Julian Leaser compared these increases with the most recent wage price index data, which showed wage price growth of 3.3% in the 12 months to March – meaning secondary education costs are now growing at double the rate of wages.

“The bad news is that the amount you pay to educate your high schooler is now growing twice as fast as your wages. The worse news is that there is no relief in sight after this bad Labor budget. It’s untenable,” Leaser said.

Mr Leaser said the increases would be felt first by the families of the 1.9 million secondary school students across the country, but that all families with school children would be affected. General education costs increased by 4.8% in the 12 months to April 2026, growing about 45% faster than wages.

Mr Leaser noted that increases in government spending across the board had only led to parents paying more.

“I lay the blame squarely at the feet of the government and its continued mismanagement of the economy. To put downward pressure on education costs you need to address the factors that drive it: energy, taxes, insurance premiums, land and capital costs, regulatory complexity. All of these things have gotten worse under this bad Labor government with its endless spending.”

“Labor’s bad economic decisions mean you pay more to educate your child – again proving that when Labor spends, you pay.”

**ENDS**

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