



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 3 – EDUCATION

MEDIA RELEASE

INQUIRY INTO TEACHER SHORTAGES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

16 June 2022

The NSW Upper House's Education Committee today commenced an inquiry into teacher shortages in New South Wales.

The Chair of the Committee, the Hon Mark Latham MLC, stated, 'The committee will conduct a comprehensive examination of teacher shortages in the NSW school system – both the factors contributing to the shortages and the best ways to address them. Teacher shortages are a serious problem impacting on the learning of children across the state in very real ways.'

'The committee will examine the various contributions of long-term teacher shortages, loss of the casual teaching workforce, vaccination mandates, COVID-19 and other factors.'

Mr Latham continued, 'We will also investigate the use of out of area teaching, merged classes and minimal supervision in schools, future teacher supply and demand, teaching workforce conditions, Initial Teacher Education, and the measures contained in the NSW Teacher Supply Strategy. We'll consider the various challenges that principals face in managing staff that may be contributing to the issue, as well as the impact of casualisation, temporary contracts and job insecurity across teaching, and more broadly, the status of the teaching profession.'

'This committee is currently undertaking a separate inquiry into school infrastructure and has previously examined the NSW school curriculum. This inquiry will focus on a third critical issue – teacher supply. In doing so, we expect to make important recommendations that will build the ranks of high quality teachers the NSW school system, with the end goal of a teaching workforce with the size, strength and skill to deliver the excellent education that we all want for our children,' commented the Chair.

Teaching professionals, parents, other individuals, community groups, and organisations are all welcome to make a submission by the closing date of **Sunday 31 July 2022**. An online questionnaire to open shortly will have the same closing date. The committee will hold hearings in August and September, and report by 8 November 2022.

For information about the inquiry or on how to make a submission, please visit the committee's [website](#).

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For further information please contact the Committee Chair, the Hon Mark Latham MLC, on 9230 3682.