



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 3 – EDUCATION

## MEDIA RELEASE

# REPORT INTO TEACHER SHORTAGES AND EDUCATION OUTCOMES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**24 FEBRUARY 2023**

The NSW Upper House's Education Committee has today tabled a further report into teacher shortages and education outcomes in New South Wales.

The Chair of the committee, the Hon Mark Latham MLC, said: 'As discussed in the committee's [previous report](#) into teacher shortages, the NSW school education system is at a tipping point and sweeping change is needed now – to not only uplift the overall status of teaching in this state but to uplift school results and the lifetime opportunities of our young people. We concluded that the evidence presented during this inquiry does not change our earlier findings and recommendations.'

'During this inquiry, the committee heard that there has been a reduction in the number of vacancies from what was reported in November 2022. However, the committee was disappointed that further information to clarify the full extent of total vacancies, specifically casual and temporary vacancies, is not available.' Mr Latham continued: 'We reiterate the recommendations of the committee's previous report, specifically around the collection of data, and call on the department to provide more fulsome vacancy information to ensure that a more accurate understanding of the teacher supply shortage can be ascertained and to support better workforce planning.'

Further, Mr Latham stated: 'Amongst the causes for the teacher shortage, it was highlighted during this inquiry that, for the first time, teacher resignations, particularly by graduate teachers and principals, outpaced teacher retirements.'

Mr Latham concluded: 'It is clear to the committee that teacher shortages are widespread and affect the education outcomes of students across the state, particularly those with special needs. As we discussed in the previous report, substantially elevating the status of teaching to a modern, dynamic and rewarding to profession will, in large part, address supply constraints. The consequences of these actions are expected to be twofold: the best and brightest school leavers will be encouraged to become teachers, and the current cohort of teachers will be appropriately rewarded for its efforts. We expect the NSW Government to, as a priority, continue pursuing initiatives to address teacher supply constraints.'

Separately, during the inquiry there was discussion about the use of mobile phones in schools. The committee found that the banning of mobile phones in schools is not supported by evidence and could lead to unintended consequences.

Further information about the inquiry can be found on the [inquiry webpage](#).

-ENDS-

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