

**INQUIRY INTO TEACHER SHORTAGES IN NEW SOUTH  
WALES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

I am a Mathematics Teacher of 19 years. I have witnessed a massive rise in the amount of documentation/paperwork, class sizes and teacher expectation, meanwhile it has all been to the detriment of the student learning. Students have a mindset that if they do not see the immediate need for it, then they are reluctant to learn it. This then causes extra workload for teachers needing to create interesting and engaging lessons whilst dealing with the discipline issues that arise. The only thing that hasn't increased is the release from face to face.

The mandates and the handling of covid has caused a further increase in workload for those at school. I have been significantly impacted by the mandates myself as I did not want to participate in a vaccine trial. I have developed depression and anxiety as a result of being shun from society and treated like a criminal for not following the Departments directives. It has affected my whole family as we have financial stress and the daily fear and worry as to whether I am going to lose my job and how we are going to make ends meet to keep a roof over our heads and feed our young family. I have been without an income for 9 weeks and as I am the larger breadearner, with a 3-year-old mortgage, increase in everyday living and two primary school aged kids it has put a massive strain on all of us. I thought I was returning to work as I had a medical exemption but the department refused to do the risk assessment in order to allow me back. The school had rearranged classes and timetables in the anticipation of my return. I had spent the two weeks of April holidays preparing and spent a day at the school returning all my resources and setting up my room. I returned for two days only to be told by PES that I was not to be back. I had met my students and told them that I was their teacher from now on, only to have it removed from me. Who knows what they were told when I did not return the next day. I continued to prepare lessons for the casual for the next three weeks thinking that the PHO was finishing and that I would be back. This was all unpaid. After Georgina's announcement that she would be continuing with the mandates I stopped working for free. This left 6 classes with day to day casuals, a faculty gutted as they thought I was returning and me trapped in employment that are refusing to allow me to do my job. I have had to fight to be paid the two days that I returned to work, whilst they have agreed to now pay me those two days, I have to date not received the money. I have also received a letter to say that I will be back paid and am now on alternate duties, but to date have not received this payment.

As the vaccine has not stopped transmission the fact that I am being refused the right to work is mindboggling. It has increased the workload of my faculty tenfold as they have had to prepare for the casuals. The students have not had meaningful teaching and have been the ones who have suffered the most. This is clearly not about health, but about control.

I was sick for two days with flu like symptoms. I had a negative reading on a RAT test. However, my Doctor organised for me to have a blood test which resulted in a positive reading to SARS-2. I am unvaccinated. How can mandates be in place when my symptoms were less in severe than many vaccinated people I have spoken to that had Covid? Wasn't I suppose to die if I contracted Covid unvaccinated? Sure, they can say that the Omicron variant is less severe, but I had a blood test and it did not say anywhere what variant of Covid I had so how are they testing for variants? A RAT or PCR test certainly does not distinguish between variants.

Why are they still refusing to let me teach when I am no more of a threat to passing on covid than my vaccinated colleagues? In fact I am less as I am in the 3 month window of not being able to supposedly contract it again. Why are they refusing to let me work when my school needs me so desperately? Staff are burnt out, the students are missing out on quality education and my family are struggling to be fed. We are told to know, care for and value each student by the NSW DOE, yet they certainly aren't doing this themselves as far as their staff or students are concerned.