

**Submission  
No 23**

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

**Name:** Mrs Tracy Goodwin

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I submitted the following letter to Ms Mitchell's website on February 17, 2022. I re-submitted it in April. I still have not had a response to either apart from the receipt of submission.

Quirindi High School are still having to send students to the playground because there are not enough teacher to run a class. Mr Chris Shaw attended a P&C Meeting to tell us that no one wants to move to the 'bush' because they can teach full time in a casual capacity on the coast.

He said there is a lot of funding available for the students missing out on classes so that they wont be left behind. - How is funding going to help when there are no teachers to pay? The Principal at the Primary School my daughter attends says he has hundreds of thousands of dollars in his budget to spend on teachers but no one to take the positions to pay them.

We were told by Mr Shaw that there was an inquiry handed to the DOE in 2008 warning of the teacher shortage crisis, obviously nothing was done to prevent it and here it is and I honestly am scared as a parent to see how this issue can be fixed when the DOE keep saying there is no problem. They do not seem to be open to ideas to fix the teacher shortage apart from throwing money around. What about working with Universities, overhauling their teaching degrees to be more relevant, adopting a locum program for 3rd and 4th year students? Making all degrees more affordable? Listening to the teachers we currently have who know FIRST HAND what is needed, and getting ideas off them on how to fix it.

Here is the letter, I am still just as frustrated, if not more so due to the lack of communication as I was in February...

Dear Ms Mitchell,

I am writing to express my serious concern about the current teacher shortages that is severely affecting Quirindi High School.

I am aware that the Pandemic has had some influence on the disruption of schools over the last couple of years but I feel this issue is more related to the fact that the school is unable to fill essential, permanent positions and this is very concerning.

As a parent, I have seen my 14 year old son so far this year spend the majority of his Math's lessons under 'supervised playgroud time' yet the other year 8 classes have had their lessons. Can you tell me how this is not putting my son and his class at a significant disadvantage to the rest of his year? My 9 year old daughter is in year 3 at Quirindi Public School and has had many disrupted lessons as the school struggles to find casual teacher if one of their staff is sick or forced into isolation.

I am not blaming Quirindi High School, or the Primary School for this issue, I am a very active member of the school community, currently Vice President of both the High School and the Primary School's P&C and have seen the struggle the teacher's and staff have struggled with during the course of these unprecedented times and believe that they have handled everything that has been thrown at them quite admirably.

I would like to know what the Department of Education and yourself as Minister are doing to address the teacher shortage issue as it has now reached critical levels and the students are the ones that are suffering. PLEASE I beg you, bring this issue to the Government's undivided attention, it is already bad enough that the current cohort of students have had two years of disrupted learning because of COVID-19, but now to continue with disrupted learning because of a lack of teachers is just frustrating to the point of tears.

I have never in my life been driven to write to even a local member of Parliament, let alone a Minister such as yourself so I apologise if this is a bit of a ramble but I just don't know what else to do as I sit and see not only my children but a lot of others in this area particularly, constantly having their education be put on the back burner and the powers that be sitting silently by and not making this into the crisis that it really is.

Thank you for your time

Kind regards,

Tracy Goodwin.