

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

I had a degree in Information Technology and taught technology courses in the TAFE system prior to retraining to become a Secondary school teacher in NSW, via the completion of another degree in Technology Education. I worked as a Technology and Applied Sciences teacher in the same school on Temporary Contracts for four years before applying for a permanent role within the school, which I was successful in achieving in 2019. This position brought immense responsibility as it involved working with my Faculty to design and develop STEM subjects, as a means of encouraging higher student engagement and academic outcomes. As such, I undertook and committed to a lot of targeted ongoing Professional Development and liaison with professional technological bodies and organisations. I thoroughly enjoyed my job and the tangible influence my dedication was having, not only through being an energetic team member within my school community, but each and every day addressing the various challenges inherent in the role. The ultimate satisfaction and the reason I went to work was the acknowledgement of the absolute privilege it is to be a person of care, influence, guidance, and inspiration for adolescents in the school environment. To help them be the best they can be and see their skills, knowledge build and underpin their confidence and self-esteem, so they may effectively thrive and happily participate in life is my ultimate purpose.

I could never have conceived that my six years of service would come to an abrupt end, with the shameful scar of findings of 'Serious Misconduct' now on my file, underpinning my Termination, resulting from wanting to wait for the trials of the experimental drug to be completed and analysed before considering to put that into my body. I asked for Risk Assessments from my Supervisors and the Department on the Covid-19 Vaccines, but was denied that they needed to provide one. I asked for consideration of other control measures, such as Air Purifiers, PPE and daily Rat-testing, but was ignored. While on Sick leave, I received a Show Cause letter from a PES Investigator. The investigation was put on hold when I asked why the process to terminate me was occurring while I was on Leave, as according to the DoE's policy, those on such leave are not even required to check their emails. I asked the HR section of the DoE for my employment contract, but instead of providing me with it, they automatically referred me to the newly-created COVID Taskforce Team, with no further information. My subsequent Investigation unceremoniously resulted in Termination, despite the peer-reviewed studies and information I provided that questioned the legitimacy of the 'safe and effective' rhetoric.

Now I have been unemployed since 23rd Feb 2022. I have suffered not only financial hardship, but also ostracisation from my former work colleagues. My sense of identity was strongly inter-related to my job and so I am struggling to retain confidence and significance. As a sole parent, this loss of income has been particularly detrimental and difficult for my child to accept the change in our standard of living. I am at a loss of to explain why I can attend school un-vaccinated as a parent, but am unable to attend in a working capacity. What I also find inconsistent, is that their already was a shortage of technology teachers, with forecasts for 2020 and beyond particularly dire. Yet, all of the training invested in my skill-set by the DoE, my school and myself has been deemed worthless by virtue of this dismissal. The response to the Pandemic has been more destructive and harmful than the virus itself.