

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 16 June 2022

Partially
Confidential

I am a secondary teacher with a lot of experience working as a full time casual attached to the one school and have stayed casual after years of permanency due to health issues I developed. I started teaching in 1987 and can teach all subjects including practical lessons and subjects, When the vaccine mandate came in I was banned from entering my school, threatened with professional misconduct charges, told Police would be called if I set foot in my school and had no pay whatsoever for over 7 months. I lost over \$40K worth of pay.

I chose not to get vaccinated on the advice of a medical practitioner based on my previous severe adverse reactions to medicine trials for health conditions. This same Dr said they were unable to give me a medical exemption due to the strict criteria set out by APRA.

During the April holidays I developed Covid and was given a 4 month exemption by my GP to go back to work. The NSW Department wasted 1 month of this by asking for more information and doing a risk assessment so I sadly lost one month of my 4 months because of this.

I went back to work mid May and have worked every single day since, working full days (every period face to face plus a playground duty and a roll call.) This means I can enter the school at 8 and start duty at 8.15 and not eat, drink or go to the toilet or have a break till 11.55 am. There is such a severe teacher shortage and such high absences that classes are collapsed and I have tried to teach 4 Science classes in the hall, 90 students plus at different levels and year groups.

The vaccine mandate has had severe effects on the shortage of casuals but what I have also noticed is that the prac students coming in are not well equipped enough to teach as they do so few lessons and are often supervised by a random variety of casual teachers due to the high rate of staff absent every day, if supervised at all.

Junior teachers with 1-2 years experience are wanting or threatening to quit and seem to lack the skills and resilience needed to teach. It's really upsetting to see this as I am based in a school that is considered desirable but started my permanent appointment straight out of Uni at what was then Sydney's worst school. These schools would be impossible to staff under this current teacher shortage.

Today I took 2 student teachers into my lessons to let them observe me and they remarked several times how good I am at managing the classes and teaching the required content. This was developed through my years of experience and when my exemption runs out mid August I will be assigned to the scrapheap and on no pay.

the vaccine mandate needs to end. I have not been sick since I came back but all the vaccinated teachers are continually sick and absent.