

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I am writing to put forward my ideas and ways that could help alleviate the teacher shortages in NSW.

I have been a teacher for 42 years in both systems of education - state and private. Over the years the pressure placed on teachers, including increased workload and expectations has grown immensely. Where there used to be an abundance of teachers, as a casual teacher for part of that time it was difficult to get work. An oversupply of casuals.

Over the past two years, the situation has escalated. With the introduction of vaccine mandates for staff, many teachers made the personal medical choice to not have the injections that were being imposed on them by the government, which is totally valid. The government was moving ahead with these decisions without being fully aware of the implications, and with a lack of sound medical advice from a balanced pool of medical practitioners.

To help solve the problem of the teacher shortage the state is facing at present, it makes so much sense now to reinstate those teachers that were sacked or forced to take leave. I am one of those. Luckily, I don't work for the DOE any more but I have been in an independent school for the last 25 years. Yes - they wouldn't allow me to work due to the mandates but from 16th May I was allowed to return. As much as I disagreed with these drastic measures by the government, I respect my school for having the decency to not continue the mandates and allow vaccine free staff to return to work. COVID went through the schools at an alarming rate during the mandate period and the vaccine free staff weren't even there. We need to think carefully about that.

The children are the ones suffering as well as all those staff who have been unable to work to support their families. Others who are suffering are those teachers who were bullied into taking the injections to keep their jobs. Bullied with the threat of not being able to continue working. I am coming across more and more of them at my school since returning.

Please....allow my colleagues in both DOE and Catholic Schools to return to work. Surely this action will go a long way toward alleviating the problem of teacher shortages in NSW.

The idea of bringing in teachers from overseas is a true insult to those teachers who have been put off by these mandates.

Please consider these thoughts and think rationally and compassionately for the sake of our children.