

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

As a woman in her 40's who just spent the last 6 years working, raising a family and studying to be a teacher only to not be able to complete my degree, I submit that mandates be removed to assist with the teacher shortage. It is too late for me, as I have given up and have elected to take the alternative Bach Educational Studies, with only 3 prac subjects left of my degree, however there are others still hanging onto hope. I was even happy to move to the lower pay rate to the tune of a \$12,000 a year difference at the start of studying this degree. Now I am more than happy to leave without the teaching degree I worked so hard for, and that myself, husband children made such sacrifices for, and keep my current position which is now paying \$30,000 more than a teacher starting salary and remain free to make my own medical choices. You are short teachers because so many are off sick with covid, so your vaccinations, sadly have protected no-one.

Vaccination mandates aside, I submit that every single classroom should have a teachers aid, more money thrown at teachers is not going to help with the load they carry or the fact that my child's teacher spends so much time dealing with a certain group of students instead of everyone getting equal time and support in their learning. An extra aid in each classroom economically is a massive expense, however taking into account the increased quality of education and the long term flow on impacts to our community, it is well worth while. A skilled and educated community increases GDP, innovation, provides better health literacy to reduce medical/hospital costs and lesser dependence on Centrelink.

My last submission, is that teachers on prac should be paid. Having to work for several months unpaid is a significant barrier to mature adults who have real world industry experience, but also have mortgages and children etc. They simply cannot afford to be unpaid for the period of time involved to complete all pracs. Remove this barrier - if as a country we support long term, generational unemployed benefits, the country can afford to remove this barrier to getting a greater number of industry skilled career changers into teaching. If you have only ever spent your whole life in education, eg gone straight from high school to uni, straight to teaching, you fundamentally are missing the experience and knowledge of real world situations outside academia that these types of persons can offer.