

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 17 June 2022

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Partially  
Confidential

I received an email stating that the Hon Mark Latham MLC has commenced an inquiry into teacher shortages in NSW. stating 'The committee will examine the various contributions of long-term teacher shortages, loss of the casual teaching workforce, vaccination mandates, COVID-19 and other factors.'

Here is my story:

I am a Secondary High School Teacher, and have been for the last 14 years. Since the mandates came into effect in November 2021 I have not been able to work. I received a temporary Covid19 Contraindication Medical Exemption. This was declined by the Department of Education (DoE) Health and Wellbeing Team, saying I still needed both vaccinations to work. I later found out that I was under investigation by the DoE Professional and Ethical Standards board (PES) for not attesting my status by the due date. I did attest by the due date, however my Principal did not tick the box, and has continued to not tick the box. This has resulted in me not being able to work even with a medical exemption. I have mentioned this to PES and the DoE and no one wants to listen.

At the start of 2022, I found documents from the Department stating that I could be offered Working from Home duties while my exemption was being processed. However because I was under 'investigation" my Principal would not allow this option. His Director said could WFH and be paid. My Principal continued to say no. Again the reason I am under investigation and cannot return to work is because my Principal did not tick the initial box back in November 2021 to say i attested by the due date. I again being this up and no one wants in the DoE or PES wants to listen. I was forced to take Leave Without Pay. And have been on LWOP since January 2022. To date I have lost an income of over \$50K.

In March 2022 I contracted covid19 (very mild) and received another exemption. I still cannot work because I am 'under investigation.'

This is why I cannot stand in front of my classroom and teach my students. I have followed all the DoE directives and am still placed under investigation for not being compliant and then forced to take LWOP.

I am one teacher in the teacher shortage.