

**Submission  
No 66**

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

**Name:** Mrs Tara Tihema

**Date Received:** 19 June 2022

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I am a secondary English teacher with 23 years experience in the profession. I had been employed by an independent school for 17 years until December 2021 when my employment was terminated due to my refusal to comply with the vaccination mandate.

I refused to comply for the following reasons: I am young (46), fit, healthy and not in the risk group for covid. I am a mother of 3 young children who needs to be fit and healthy to take care of them. I wanted to see whether the vaccine had any serious side-effects on the population before I had it, being new technology and my risk being low. I was also very put off by the large scale propaganda campaign and the threats made by our politicians that threatened my ability to make a decision about risk versus benefit without the additional pressure being put on me to comply.

In the end, I am extremely grateful I did not comply as I have recently had covid and experienced virtually no symptoms whatsoever.

As a result of my sacking, I am now unable to get a job. I have started my own tutoring business, but I earn about a quarter of what I used to and I'm not getting any super or sick leave etc.

The only schools that have dropped the mandates in my local area are Christian schools (I am not a practising Christian and cannot get work at these schools) and my previous employer. I cannot work in the public system or the Catholic system. I have made inquiries at a number of schools but it seems I am now unemployable because of my personal health decisions.

This is seriously impacting on my family and our finances. I am fortunate that my husband has been able to support us financially through this time, but I really need to get back to earning a decent wage and resuming my occupation, one in which I am highly skilled and very dedicated to.