

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 18 June 2022

Partially
Confidential

When the mandates were lifted by the NSW Premier on May 13th I felt confident that things would change for me.

I am a retired teacher who had up until last November been enjoying as much casual teaching as I needed. Schools were happy throughout the pandemic to have my 30 years of expertise and I was very happy to give it. There were some very challenging days teaching for me prior to the introduction of vaccines as schools worked valiantly to cater for student needs during lockdowns. I worked throughout this period sometimes covering several year groups at once and risking contracting COVID, when other teachers were not keen to work. Not quality teaching I have to say but adequate under the circumstances.

I have an auto immune disease so when I read that there was no data available to determine whether the COVID vaccines were safe for me, I had to put my health first.

I worked in schools right up to the cut off date of November 8 and have not worked since.

When I read daily, that schools are in crisis because of staffing shortages I cannot understand why I am still not permitted to teach again.

We now know the vaccines do not stop transmission or prevent us from catching COVID. We also know that unvaccinated people are no more likely to transmit the virus than vaccinated. So there is no scientific or health reason to warrant the NSW DET continuing to enforce the mandates. Also, I have had COVID in January and now have natural immunity.

There seems to be no logical reason for continuing this mandate, except as punishment for refusing to accept a non compulsory (according to the previous PM) medical procedure still in its trial stages.

Thank you for accepting and reading my submission.

I hope things will change soon for the betterment of our students.

Meanwhile I sit and wait.