

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to submit my experience in Dept of Education at a SSP as a School Learning Support Officer. I have been on approved leave since the mandates but hope to be able to return at the start of Term 3 as long as the department removes its determination about vaccinations. I have been in contact with a few staff during my absence and they have kept me up to date on what its been like at school. Before the Covid 19 contact regulations changed the school was continually under staff at the beginning of the year with many classes being disbanded and students placed in other classes. This was often distressing for our special needs students who like routine and consistency. In addition the extra burden on teachers and SLSO just increased their frustration and feeling of overworked and under supported. The vaccination has not stopped staff coming down with Covid 19 and recently around the 8th June, the whole school was closed for 3 days reported to be because 7 teachers and 6 students sick with Covid 19 and the majority of the staff are boosted. So I would hope that the vaccinations become what they should of always been, a personal choice and not mandated, giving me the opportunity to get back to work with the students.

Staffing at our school has been getting worse over the years I have been there. Many good experience and specifically special needs trained have left. Many then just op to be a casual teacher because they don't want the headache of all the paperwork and team meetings/groups etc. Paperwork seems to be a big issue for teachers which over the years has become excessive. Currently at my SSP school only 2 teachers working there are special needs trained.