

**Submission
No 82**

INQUIRY INTO TEACHER SHORTAGES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Mr Kenneth Jordan

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NSW Teacher Shortage

I have been teaching since 2005. I came to teaching from a trade background and taught out western NSW from 2006 to 2010, before moving with my family to the coast.

My teaching out west taught me how hard it was to get a casual teacher to cover classes. Typically, if more than one teacher was absent then classes could be combined, distributed, or supervised by the executive staff. The casual pool was so low that regular teachers would need to do extra classes every term to cover the absences, this created excessive workloads and affected teaching quality, not to mention more stress on teachers which caused their immune systems to suffer.

I moved to the coast and for most of that time, we had an adequate supply of casual staff to cover illnesses and professional learning opportunities. In the last few years with teachers leaving the profession, due to COVID, changes in student behaviour and administrative burdens the system now has comparisons to being out in western NSW.

I work in TAS which employs casuals that need to be suitably trained to operate machinery and various equipment. Since COVID we are lucky to get a casual teacher let alone one that is TAS trained. This affects most of my classes as practical sessions are not taught. Many of my students really enjoy the practical subjects and they only come to school because of these subjects.

We need to recruit more suitably trained teachers as a matter of urgency, otherwise, we will end up with students sitting out of class creating greater behavioural issues, more psychological stress and social problems.