

Submission
No 92

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 18 June 2022

Partially
Confidential

Dear Mr. Latham,

I am a recently retired classroom teacher. I retired earlier than I had intended because I preferred not to upload my vaccination status into the Education Department's Vax Attest system, and this became a condition of employment.

The current needless staff shortage in NSW schools is going to be devastating for the education of our children. With all the disruption over the past two years, this is just another flaw, to be added to the list, in the Department's management of Education in NSW.

There is a simple solution.

Instead of getting underqualified students, or corporate staff back in the classroom (why do you think they left?), utilize the vaccine-free fully qualified, experienced teachers, who have remained in the classroom (until the mandates) because they love their jobs. These teachers are ready, willing, and able to teach. I would be willing to teach in a casual capacity.

The reasoning for not using this bountiful resource is confusing. Covid-19 is no longer a serious threat to health (If it ever was?). Surely the problem is *the virus*, NOT whether you are vaccinated or not. So, it follows that if you have tested negative to the virus, then there is no risk.

Health care workers can be at work, even if they've tested *positive* for the virus, so long as they are asymptomatic! Why can this not also apply to teachers, whether they are vaccinated or not?

I wish you well in your determination to solve this problem for school communities.

Yours Faithfully,