

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

University Students studying teaching

- Lantite: an exam with only 3 attempts on literacy and numeracy skills 30% above average adult ability tested on a generation of students impacted from shortages of teachers, covid circumstances, and poor financial support.
- Some students were only made aware in their third and fourth years of study and are now in great deal of debt having to pay off useless teaching degrees.
- There's hundreds of students in the position and the government sweeps it under the rug by providing no support or options for these people. One facebook group has close 400 people possibly in this situation "Lantite won't take away our dreams" and there's quite a few petitions in removing with 1000s of people signed up for it.
- Acer the organisation that runs the exams provides outdated sources unlike their exams made to look easy for when those articles pop up saying 1 in 10 fail the public jump to their papers and claim it's easy which it is.
- The Literacy exam consists of questions 3 pages worth of text for each question out of 60 to be done in just only two hours. Some questions are debatable with its answers and with the pressure of finding specific references it's challenging as you may not know if the answer is implied there for extremely stressful.
- No support or special requirements for those with dyslexia, dyspraxia, disabilities and mental health issues such as anxiety during examination.
- One option of taking the exam if unlucky to book or unable to reach location due to the limited amount of exam centers is the computer option. The computer option offers a program called proptectorU where a stranger outside Acer has the opportunity in accessing your computer's screen and camera to watch you while you take the exam for potential misconduct. It monitors for eye movement and your environment surrounds. It's extremely invasive and pressuring.
- Computer problems or crashing of exams, the stranger is unable to help you in these issues and if reported too late such as a day later, an attempt is used.
- There's been cases where acer has lost a student's data and have made them resit the exams.
- Numeracy exam consists of sections that you can't re-edit (go back to)
- 30% above average adult ability, with topics such as algebra and speed and distant questions. It questions why must teachers such as visual arts teachers must know this and know this to a well above average ability?. For TAS teachers just another subject to learn entirely to go with the 22 different subjects they have to learn and teach. Where do they find this time to learn this?.
- Unfortunately due to limited exam spaces and dates to sit the exams, most are required to sit the exams right after each other with only a small break in between.
- There's barely any material out there somewhat like the exams, not even Naplan is like it. If you need support you end up having to spend more money and it is quite expensive for the material that is out there.
- ACU had to do a muck up version of it due to the many reports of students late in their degrees made unaware of it and now stuck having to pay everything off. This muck up again not like the exams uses protectorU and actually records the student's down to eye contact which is sent to the

program and sent to the university, instead of having an actual person. I actually broke down while sitting the exam and to know that's out there is concerning.

- The time in having to study this impacts a student's mental health, knowing that failing it means they can lose their degrees entirely. Many end up getting anxiety and depression because of it.

- There's no support for these students in debt and in those positions with the useless degrees

- I was offered by the coordinator of arts and education of ACU if I were to fail all attempts, that there's an option of using my education credits to redo my education degree.

- Those who need special help are having to pay significant amount of money.

- Each exam costs \$98, fail and you will have to pay again. Expensive including having to pay for the right/closest material related to study off.

- I had to pay like \$200 a week just on tutoring in preparation for it for two years, as the exams only run for three times a year.

- 2023 they'll open Lantite for anyone to sit it?, why not now?.

- I had to learn 22 different subjects for TAS and then learn maths entirely outside my studies as I was a mature aged student who haven't studied it in 7 years.

- They want to attract fresh students straight out of highschool for teaching with ATARs above 80?. This is limiting subjects of interest due to high scoring subjects in HSC, and these students are impacted from COVID and shortages therefore the struggle is high and universities had to lower ATARs for these students.

- They want to attract overseas and interstate teachers but they have different educations, qualifications and experiences. They'll also most likely won't sit Lantite, making it an insult to those who are talented and with completed degrees such as myself with studies riddled with credits and distinctions. Many countries such as the UK stopped attempts and some countries don't have it at all as they are desperate for teachers too, making it even more insulting that we are stealing teachers from them. These countries have different qualifications too such as South Africa and experiences such as the Philippines which teachers don't do reporting and prepping.

- The time to study in preparation for Lantite impacts your own studies due to limited amount of time and anxieties/mental health and GPA which already has to be higher than standards to be a teacher. In other words that you must aim for credits and distinctions, not passes and the more times you fail a subject such as that muck up exam subject (no prepping or teaching for that unit with only just two exams to sit and do), the more it makes an impact to your GPA.

- Students in my position who raise the concerns are given responses from education ministers the definition of Lantite and that they only "regret" the situation.

- Articles lie saying 80% or 90% pass when two years ago back when I studied almost everyone I knew fail either one at least once or twice, with some entirely and 54 in my cohort failed 3 times for the muck up versions.

- NESA called me and said that as for this year due to the shortages anyone as long as they have experience in the field can teach as long as it's approved by the principal and a letter of accreditation

is written and sent to NESAs to give the right codes to allow them to teach, you don't have to have a degree) for only 6 years and then you have to complete an education degree. a slap to the face.

- Schools are so desperate they are doing the sneaky just to get TAS teachers by hiring teachers who have failed LANTITE.

- Articles claiming it's easy are published before or after every LANTITE exam period, making students like me feel incapable and questioning the worth of being a teacher themselves. It's deliberate and so wrong, it's their way of stopping complaints and misguiding the general public.

- It's very hard talking about Lantite as many jump to need for it, those who question it are those who are maths or English teachers or special fields, parents and those who haven't sat the exams for themselves to know about it.

- raising expectations on a generation impacted by poor education.

- education doesn't value the arts and it's what most students go to after finishing, the designing careers who later drop from them.

- At ACUs students are having to find their own work placements due to poor management from ACUs education department.

suggestions:

- make students sit it before their degrees

- those stuck in debt with the useless degrees a chance to teach and given permanency if achieved standards from principal or a actual course or program to help fix and improve those skills.

- support for mental health and disabilities during those exams and studies in general

- Removing attempts or removal of exams

- removal of costs for the exams to run

- stopping standardisation, not only just maths and literacy skills

- changing and reducing high level expectations and changing content in those exams to more relevant topics to be used in a classroom

- reducing the 30%

TAS/STEM

- according to the head teacher of TAS a lady I work with they have to learn just this year 22 entirely different subjects to learn and teach. Here are only the ones I've learnt in the TAS degree :

STEM (science and maths)

Agriculture
Metal
Food
Timber
Textiles
Visual arts eventually later down the track
graphic design
computing
industrial arts
hospitality
design

How on earth can one teacher know and teach all of this? , also minus education studies??????

Lots of early TAS teachers drop and leave, along with university students in their teaching studies due to pressure and pressures of LANTTTE.

I dropped because this is ridiculous and nobody seems to care or understand , i'm very talented and my studies are riddled with credits and distinctions. I couldn't pass that maths exam outside my degree and im now im left having to pay it all and working as a technician in schools for TAS teachers who are stressed as hell , who i can easily help. I'm not doing it for 6 years to then be on the same boat having to study a degree again. NOT WORTH IT.

- Teaching university drop out