

Submission
No 90

INQUIRY INTO TEACHER SHORTAGES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Russell Lea Public School Parents & Citizens Association

Date Received: 29 July 2022

Please find attached letter, as addressed to The Hon. Sarah Mitchell MLC, from the P&C Association of Russell Lea Public School regarding the impacts of teachers shortages. We would like this to be included in the parliamentary inquiry - Teacher shortages in New South Wales.

Thank you



Russell Lea Public School P&C

Whittall Street, Russell Lea NSW 2046 | <https://www.rlps-pandc.com/>

28 July 2022

The Hon. Sarah Mitchell MLC
Minister for Education and Early Learning
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Minister

RE: TEACHER SHORTAGES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

I write on behalf of the parent community of Russell Lea Public School (Whittall Street, NSW 2046) to voice our concern regarding the acute teacher shortages and the associated detrimental longer-term impacts on our students and teachers.

As parents of primary school children with their high school education ahead of them, the current state of teacher shortages is alarming. I have encouraged our school families to participate in the questionnaire that is part of the parliamentary inquiry by the NSW Upper House Education Committee and a copy of this letter will be submitted to the committee.

At Russell Lea Public School, we have experienced classes being merged when there is no casual teacher cover available. Class sizes become too large for students to receive the support they require so learning in addition to student wellbeing is compromised. It is challenging for students to 'connect, succeed and thrive' when teachers are overloaded due to high student numbers per class. There have also been instances when Learning and Support staff are pulled from their specific support duties to cover classrooms. Those students who require the additional assistance are then left unsupported. Recent uncertain times have resulted in increased mental health issues for children. Inconsistency with classroom teachers has had a significant impact on some of our students with their overall learning and wellbeing.

A shortage of teachers will lead to a decline in educational standards. The future of today's students is in jeopardy. We appeal to the current government to tackle teacher working conditions and remuneration to attract and retain qualified teachers. Education is a fundamental human right and we urge the government to acknowledge this through their policy direction.

Yours faithfully

Narelle Horton
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Russell Lea Public School
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Copy to:

1. Ms Prue Car MP, Shadow Minister for Education and Early Learning, E: londonderry@parliament.nsw.gov.au
2. [Inquiry into Teacher shortages in New South Wales](#)
3. Mr Angelo Gavrielatos, President, NSW Teachers Federation, E: mail@nswtf.org.au