

**Submission
No 106**

INQUIRY INTO TEACHER SHORTAGES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Date Received: 1 July 2022

As a current yr 11 student, the lack of motivated, determined and highly educated teachers greatly concerns me, as I'm sure it does countless other young Australians and NSW residents. The highly politicised sacking and demonisation of teachers who refused to take mandatory vaccinations is nothing short of sickening, and, quite frankly, undemocratic. The children and adolescents of today are tomorrow's future, we don't want our teachers to be vaporised because the government couldn't afford to have their delicate ego bruised, we don't want our teachers to be preoccupied because they're overworked and underpaid and we most definitely don't want teachers who loathe their job due to a toxic workplace environment. The quality of education we require isn't a tiresome burden, it is an appropriate obligation in which we'd expect our government to enthusiastically enjoy granting.

Reversing the vaccination mandates is a good start to commence the reconciliation process and with teachers we desperately need to return to work, but, after the way in which certain teachers were treated, the only way to build back the workforce is through a sincere and unreserved apology, active promises to never divide or discriminate against a group of teachers on the basis of personal medical choices and through improving the quality of the teaching workplace and school environments.

Teachers inevitably determine Australia's future, the least the government could do is grant them a safe working environment free from discrimination, reasonable and appropriate workloads, a liveable wage and job security for law-abiding teachers. Students need good role models as much as we need a firm educational foundation, when stress and discrimination are replaced with motivation, determination and passion, students would finally be allowed to look up to their teachers and aspire to follow in their footsteps, replacing the current toxic cycle.