

**Submission  
No 107**

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

**Name:** Mr Jack Steel

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I am a beginning teacher in my first year of employment in a NSW public school. I currently spend around 8 or 9 hours at school each day to try to catch up on the paperwork and administration I am expected to do. The amount of paperwork and extraneous tasks I am expected to do prevent me from writing programs for my students, marking, preparing materials, or even planning lessons. This is not only stressful on me but is significantly and detrimentally impacting upon the education and outcomes of my students.

The overtime I am doing is not only unpaid but is impacting on my mental and physical health as well as my personal relationships. The level of exhaustion I feel currently is greater than that which I felt during my degree while I was working on top of full-time study. It is unsustainable and if it continues I do not believe I will be able to continue working as a teacher.

The lack of support and blatant disrespect and disregard from the state government and education minister about student learning, teacher welfare, and the state of the education system are disillusioning for my colleagues and I and are leaving us wondering about our future as teachers. There is a level of disrespect we face every day from students and community members that has been fostered by the government for political gain and not one of the decision makers responsible appear to know or care what actually takes place in schools. As a teacher I act as an administrator, a researcher, a coach, a tradesman, a support worker, and a stand in for parents with unfortunate and frightening regularity. All this on top of being expected to teach. Our facilities are underfunded and under resourced. My classroom has leaking walls and no air-conditioning. Our staff and student computer systems are unacceptably slow, underpowered, and overpriced as well as being incapable of running programs necessary for teaching government mandated computer literacy and digital technologies skills. Not even staff facilities are of an acceptable standard with our staff toilet facilities regularly reduced to one set of toilets for over 70 staff.

The refusal to listen to the concerns or needs of teachers and schools by managers and the government the largest problems facing teachers and the wider education system. Education is not a business, nor is it something that can be mass-produced. It is bespoke and tailor made for each and every student by highly trained and competent educational professionals and it is important to understand that one size will not fit all.

Despite the fact that I love teaching and that I care about my students and their futures, it is for these reasons that only six months into my teaching career I am investigating other employment opportunities.