

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I was a teacher for fifteen years, and were it not for the mandates, I would happily be teaching still. By anyone's standards, I was a high achiever: university Medallist in Education, writer of textbooks and articles - value added both in terms of the results my students achieved and in terms of the time and effort I put into a career that I loved and love still.

Now, I am on the outside, looking in. The immunity my colleagues received from their initial jabs has long since waned, yet I can't return to work without submitting to a medical treatment I don't want to take. In 2021, I was pregnant, breastfeeding and watched a family member suffer major adverse effects from a covid vaccine. This affected my choices - but did I really have much choice? The social contract has been broken: there are significant portions of society who have been denied the dignity of work. My state, NSW, does not have a charter of rights, and so I have no recourse to legally challenge the violation of our human right to bodily integrity. The body is the property of the individual: not the employer, not the nation state.

I am a conscientious and committed teacher as well as the mother of a large family. We have been thrown under a bus.

Fifteen years. Many of us who left because of the mandates were long term teachers. We had skills. We could cope with the increasing workloads. While the world lived in fear, we chose to live in hope. Many of us have had covid and found it to be a medical non event.

There are easier ways to earn a dollar, but we chose to teach. The loss of one's professional identity is a tragedy, yet one without meaning or a rational cause.

If the government and the justice system were truly committed to the education of the youth of today, they would be legislating against discrimination on the basis of vaccine status.