

**Submission  
No 122**

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

**Name:** Ms Anna Robertson

**Date Received:** 17 June 2022

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Dear Hon. Members of the Parliament,

I am a dedicated and passionate English and Geography teacher with 12 year's experience teaching in the private school sector. I was fired in October 2021 due to the vaccine mandates. I adore teaching and felt my impact in education was significant.

Forced to find a way to earn a living, I began my own online tutoring business. I am turning away clients - the demand is so high. Students come to me because they have lost consistent, high quality, interactive learning, firstly from lockdowns, then from restrictions and close contact requirements, and from strikes. Most students I work with are about 18 mths-2 years behind in their skill and knowledge level. A few struggle with depression and seeing no point to learning now. Many are faced with ultra competitive school environments where additional challenges have arisen with a lack of teaching staff. My tutoring students report to me their classes are combining other senior classes, they have been through multiple teachers within Term 4 and Term 1, 2022, or their teacher is constantly sick.

I speak to many teachers who were fired who feel incredibly hurt and disrespected after all their commitment to the industry. I myself feel burnt by the treatment of my school, both from an employer who valued me but fired me nonetheless, and from my faculty members who never acknowledged my departure nor spoke to me again.

I have many teachers in my family and friendship circle - all are tired, weary and struggling. A few are setting up arrangements and provisions in order to leave the industry in the next two years. They are done.