

Submission  
No 147

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

I am a high school teacher in Sydney's south west.

On average I do 5 hours of school work outside of school hours every day. I don't have enough time to do it at school. During school hours I'm either teaching, doing administrative work or working to get students up to speed on work they've missed. I'm lucky if I get a break to eat food or go to the bathroom. I've had UTIs and Kidney infections because I don't have time to go to the bathroom and am holding my urine for 5 hours at a time. Classes are being combined all the time. This has gotten so bad that I have had to teach 14 classes in a 6 period day because I've had two or three classes combined into mine. These aren't the same subject either, I will have science, English and history combined together, and I'm English trained so I can't help everyone properly. This isn't teaching, it's babysitting.

My pay hasn't kept up with the cost of living. I'm struggling to make ends meet, especially this year with the rising costs. I'm living pay check to pay check, and starting to fall into debt.

If the profession doesn't change, if we don't get more relief time off classes, have a pay increase and encourage more people into the profession, there will be many teachers including myself who leave. I love my job, but the love isn't enough. I won't work myself into a burn out, I won't pick my job over my family. It's just not worth it.