INQUIRY INTO TEACHER SHORTAGES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Date Received: Name suppressed 5 July 2022

Partially Confidential

Nominated transfers and the amount of casuals in schools are problematic . Our school is full of casuals and they are told that they probably won't have work each end of year. This makes them extremely compliant and willing to "jump through hoops". This is not to say that permanent teachers aren't also doing everything as asked. In my 34 years of teaching most teachers have been extremely committed, caring and hard working. Our student numbers dropped last year so the principal had to choose 2 permanent teachers to be nominated transfers. This means they can be transferred anywhere at the department's discretion (they say they try to place you as close as possible to your current school but that isn't always possible. The principal (who has sole choice in this matter) decided to choose me and another teacher. The other teacher is considered to be one of the very best in the school. I have had more specialist training than any other teacher in the school and I am apparently seen as an excellent teacher by staff, students and parents. Obviously the principal did not like us for whatever reason. So instead of reducing the number of casual teachers in a school he got rid of 2 exceptionally experienced permanent teachers. I became suicidal and my beautiful colleague has had to get psychological support and is now on medication for anxiety. Neither of us have suffered anxiety or depression in the past. I have unfortunately decided the only way forward for me was to resign from a job I loved. By the way we were both fully vaccinated and I know of 3 teachers who have either announced their retirement or are soon going to. So now the student numbers have increased again and the school is having to advertise to fill positions. Thanks to this ludicrous situation of nominated transfers and schools being full of casuals one teacher has been lost and one teacher is still suffering considerably some 11months later.