

**Submission
No 162**

INQUIRY INTO TEACHER SHORTAGES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Mrs Rochelle Kennedy

Date Received: 6 July 2022

To the parliamentarians,

I share my experience as a secondary teacher of ten years in relation to the current and increasing teacher shortage being experienced in NSW.

People are their families. As part of my Catholic school family, my paid responsibility is to teach the next generation of young people well. At home, my unpaid responsibility is to raise the next generation - my little people - well. They are both full time jobs and I constantly struggle to get the balance right. I am burnt out.

When I arrive at work in the morning the first thing I do is check the daily bulletin to see if I have been given an 'extra' - an additional class or yard duty to cover on top of my already full load. We seem to be unable to get the same casual teachers in as we once did, and coupled with continued teacher absenteeism (due to illness/Covid and burn out) it is up to us to carry the additional workload. And so the allocated period I thought I had to prepare or mark student work is gone just like that, but the tasks I don't complete during my paid '5 hour' work day must get done later, after I cook dinner, get my children to bed. I will work at least two-three hours at night - it's the only way I can try to catch-up on the never ending administrative tasks that I cannot complete when I'm physically in front of a class teaching. Because ultimately that's where I want to be, that's why this is my vocation. Because I'm passionate about the education of young people. But it comes at a cost, to my family and my own mental health, and my earning potential in another industry where I could be paid my worth, where my salary is not capped. Teachers need more than thanks. A country that fails to value its teachers, fails to value its future.

Regards,

Rochelle Kennedy - HSIE Teacher