INQUIRY INTO TEACHER SHORTAGES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Mrs Karen Middleton

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I would like to the parliament to consider this. I have now left my full time contracted position in a NSW state school. Not because I didn't like my job, not because of my colleagues etc but for two main reasons; 1) the workload - once you have been teaching for a while, the workload takes a toll. I never had time to look after myself and my job often came first before my own family. Teachers are constantly updating their skills, learning their content, how to teach it, how to assess it, and the list goes on. Searching for resources, making resources, decorating their rooms, having meetings, replying to emails, communicating with colleagues and parents, reporting, writing reports and the list goes on. This is all mostly done outside of face to face teaching time. How many hours are in a day. On top of this we have extra responsibilities, such as being on or coordinating learning communities, or art or concert committees. Whatever it may be. How can this be sustainable? It's not. Not if you want yo fi a great job and be the teacher you want to be. It ran me into the ground, my health and well-being suffered and I knew I had to choose between my job and my health. But I couldn't afford to live in Sydney without working full time. The anxiety every year of reapplying for my temp position and applying for permanent positions all whilst doing my reports knowing that this job meant I could pay my mortgage. In the end I left, I moved interstate so I didn't have to worry about the mortgage and I could regain my life after being burnt out by the profession. A profession I love. No I work as a relief teacher in a private school. I tried one term full time and I remembered why I can't do that anymore. I gave up my whole life and was in tears by the end due to long hours, and stress. Teachers don't get paid enough to make those kind of sacrifices. The workload is astronomical and if you've never done it you'll never understand.