

**Submission  
No 172**

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

**Name:** Mr Adrian Crew

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I was a High School Industrial Arts Teacher with 20 years of loyal service. Prior to teaching I was a tradesman and I came into Teaching after an industrial accident left me with spinal injuries and halted my trade career. I chose teaching because I could use my skills and knowledge to help prepare future craftspeople and students in general for the world outside of school. I taught right through the worst of the pandemic as all teachers did, but with no warning mandates were made by the minister for education and my job was gone because I refused to comply and take a medically unfounded treatment. I was harassed no end by investigators who relentlessly chased to me to get Vaxxed and fill in my vax attest online. I refused. Steadfastly. The decision to mandate an unwarranted, untested and unproven medical procedure cost me my career as a Teacher. In 2019 I won the Vocational Education Teacher of the Year award.....things like that meant nothing to Minister Mitchel.....her and the department preferred to set their investigators on me and drive me out rather than offering me alternative role or even attempting to utilise my skills and knowledge for the good of the students. Put simply, they wanted me gone because I wouldn't comply and they didn't care about the effects on my students. I had 2 HSC classes at the time this was happening. They lost their teacher who many of them have had for more than 2 years leading up to the HSC. These students lost their link between them and the HSC, they lost someone they learned to trust and someone who had their best interests at heart.....what the new DET did to these HSC students was despicable and abhorrent. I know find myself retired from the NSW DET when I would much prefer to still be teaching. These days I am back working on building sites as a tradie once again at 51 years of age. I have had 3 spinal fusions, 2 shoulder reconstructions and I currently have bulging discs in my neck and mid spine. I have no choice but to keep working in trade despite what it's doing to me as I need an income. The mandates have cost me money in terms of now being on a lower wage. I never ever thought given my injuries that I would be back where I am today, but the decisions of the cowardly minister for education forced me into this. I have no other choice. I have bills to pay, family to feed and clothe etc. The minister's decision to invoke mandates have had a massive, detrimental impact on my life. As a result of her mandates, my pain level sits consistently at a minimum 5/10 and only gets worse from there because of the type of work I am doing with my injuries. I work long hours and when I am home, my life is all about resting so I can make it back to work tomorrow. I have no quality of life anymore, that's gone. I live to work, rest and go back to work so I can ensure my family have money. The NSW health Minister, the education minister and all involved in these mandates need hang their heads in shame and look me in the eye and explain why we had to do this? Their choices cost me my lifestyle, a career I loved, a feeling of self worth as I helped the students in my charge.....they have cost me family time because I can do is lay down and rest with the pain after work.....in short, these people have ruined my life. But I won't give in. I won't let them win. My family will be fed, clothed and housed no matter how much pain I am in. I can sleep at night knowing I am honest and do an honest day's work.....can these political Muppets say the same??????