

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

The NSW Government's mismanagement of the COVID-19 pandemic has been the prime cause of the teacher shortage crisis facing ALL schools.

Locking down a healthy population to protect the lives of those with existing compromised health was an avoidable policy. The resulting shift to online learning most likely hastened the retirement of the more experienced teachers, inevitably contributing to the problem with teacher supply.

The implementation of vaccine mandates has crippled the school system. The Public Health Orders mandating vaccination of Education and Care Workers made no sense when it was known, well before the implementation of these mandates, that the vaccines did not prevent transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Had the mandates not been introduced, the thousands of staff who left teaching would still be ready and willing and, most importantly, available, to overcome the shortages.

Locking down a population for an extended duration has meant that the flu has been more rampant than it otherwise would have been. As a result, teachers have been absent more regularly with illness that would have been less common had we been exposed to the emerging flu strains with regular contact when not locked down. Again, this has significantly impacted teacher shortages statewide.

The psychological damage done to the population as well must be considered. Teachers are afraid to associate with unvaccinated students or fellow teachers. They are afraid to turn up to school with the slightest of sniffles. They are afraid to think of what scary new variant may come next. Teachers who hold these fears are not presenting to school to teach their classes when otherwise, under normal circumstances, they wouldn't be anxious about doing so. This has also significantly contributed to teacher shortages.

Lastly, the excessive mandatory isolation period has caused teacher shortages. Healthy, asymptomatic, yet positive COVID-19 cases have been forced to isolate for extended periods because of nonsensical 7 or 14 day isolation periods: none of which are based on any sound, scientific or consistent reasoning.

The NSW Government and NSW Health need to make more informed, credible and transparent decisions regarding the management of COVID-19. Most of the problems outlined above are the result of the atrocious management of the "pandemic". The wilful ignorance of the reality of vaccine safety and effectiveness, the terrible toll of extended lockdowns, the uselessness of mask-mandates must be acknowledged in future decision making to ensure these deleterious effects are not repeated. Ever. Again.