

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I was a Maths teacher working in a remote and rural area. This school can be hard to staff because of its location and can start the new school year often understaffed. I was the victim of an abusive student who constantly swore at me and then threatened physical harm. I suffered a nervous breakdown. Long story short I made many attempts to rehabilitate back into my job but was the victim of a Principal who did not want my return to work to succeed. If he wasn't throwing obstacles constantly in my path he was subliminally harassing and bullying. He has done this to many staff, making it a toxic and dysfunctional work environment. I ultimately was forcibly retired on medical retirement, others just transferred out, left the profession or lost their job. Given the current staff shortages, especially in rural and remote areas, can the DET afford to have Principals like this who is forcing teachers out of their jobs based on his personal dislikes and whims. Most were committed, dedicated teachers who enjoyed being in the remote environment and many had made the location their home. When you have mass staff departures in a remote school that is hard to staff (started 2021 with 5 teachers down I believe), why are you not looking at the leader of the school and the practices he employs. Despite many formal complaints lodged he still continues to run the school like his own personal fiefdom. That is why teachers are hard to find - they have been mentally destroyed by a system that takes care of a Principal with a personal agenda.