

**Submission  
No 244**

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

**Name:** Miss Angela Tate

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## **Submission to the Portfolio Committee No.3 – Education – Teacher Shortages – New South Wales.**

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Author: Angela Iris Tate. B.A. Asian Studies. Grad. Dip.Ed. L.O.T.E. Grad.Cert. Educational Studies.

### **Addressing the terms of reference regarding teacher shortages, N.S.W.**

(a) Current teacher shortages in New South Wales schools.

As a registered teacher in NSW, from my observations and experiences, the ongoing teacher shortages has caused severe fracturing in quality learning and teaching, undermined healthy educational environments, and depleted the most salient principles of educational standards. Primarily, in Government High schools, there is an ongoing, endemic sense of chaos.

(b) Future teacher supply and demand

While the student teacher ratios remain constant, teachers are less likely to remain in State schools.

(c) Out of area teaching....

Throughout my teaching career, it has been commonplace for teachers to step into any discipline, in fact it is expected.

(e) Teaching workplace conditions

The heavy teaching load in State High schools, does not allow teachers to have enough time to support quality learning.

Twenty six years ago, when PDHPE/Sport was handed over to mainstream teachers, this began an untenable ongoing increase to teacher loading.

(g) Impacts related of Covid 19, including impact of Government responses

The pressure and fear placed upon teachers and students to accept a trial vaccine, caused undue discrimination within school domains.

(h) The impact of workplace mandates.

**Before** the mandates, teacher shortages were already severe. For example, at a local high school students were instructed, if a teacher did not show up after ten minutes into the period, that the students should all go to the quadrangle and wait there.

Since the mandates, I have been unable to undertake any casual teaching, and have suffered financial difficulties as a result. I know many teachers who were forced to leave their positions, affecting their well being exponentially.

The mandates devastated our already crumbling education infrastructure, primarily state high schools, also primary and independent schools.

(r) any other related matter

With the exponential growing number of students with a vast array of learning needs, and the ratio of student numbers in each class to just one teacher, does not permit manageable quality erudition.

One answer.

**Smaller class sizes** will provide greater appeal to those thinking of teaching as a career.

**Lastly, all teachers who were dismissed or harassed or forced to take leave due to the mandates, deserve an apology and should be reinstated into their previous positions.**

**Angela Iris Tate.**