

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 16 August 2022

Partially
Confidential

My name is _____, I just wanted to share my experiences with the issues involving my teaching studies. I've just recently dropped out of my studies as a TAS and Visual Arts teacher last year and I'm now spending this year recovering mentally from the stresses involved with Lantite. I've contacted many ministers and Sarah Mitchell and have felt extremely disappointed and ignored, in some responses I've received after sharing my experiences a definition of Lantite, totally not even acknowledging what I've been through.

The stresses of knowing during that time of study that all my hard work could go down the drain if I fail those exams eventually happened after realising how much it was impacting on my health and well-being and questioning the future of teaching in treatment for teachers if it's this bad for university students and it's taken me quite some time recovering mentally and most of all physically. I eventually got diagnosed with anxiety and depression and although at first I thought it was mentally, it later became impacting physically, down to the point I couldn't even type during the exam with my hands shaking so much or I couldn't even comprehend the text and Acer provided no support for this along with my dyspraxia and dyslexia. I'm now spending my time physically recovering in and out of doctors finding out what exactly conditions are, most related to the stresses and lifestyle while studying. The anxiety got so bad that brain would confuse the feeling of excitement as a panic attack or doing simple tasks I would feel like collapsing out of breath. Even my memory became a problem, I became so fixated on the possibility of losing my degrees and freaking out mid exam, I just couldn't absorb anything in despite the large amount of tutoring and efforts I put in and when I sat the exams, I couldn't comprehend the questions and found I had to re-read the questions over and over again and say it to myself out loud in order to grasp it. I was never, NEVER like this in my life, I've been in so many stressful study moments and this ...was something else.

Despite all of it, I'm still working in schools aiding the teachers as much as I can as a sass staff in the kitchens. It seems that this physical decay isn't what university students only experience as for the last two years I've seen many teachers including my aunt now with bells paisley due to the extreme stresses of not being able to find or have available staff to share their workloads. Most of these teachers don't even understand or even accept what mental health or even the condition they are personally in and it seems this soldier on culture runs through the system and teachers are physically are burning out.

I dropped out with a bachelor of Fine arts degree of three years and a double degree in BA art (Technology) and BA secondary education of a year and a term. I'm now having to pay all that debt off working 4 jobs that pay very little in achieving that goal.

I was a very talented student with my studies riddled with distinctions and credits, along with awards, however what set me back was a checklist back in highschool where my parents tick a box for me as a student who may need special help due to my hearing loss in particular along with my dyslexia. Because of this I was unable to move up maths classes despite being at top of the class academically and by the time year 10 hit it was too late to change this. The school brought the careers advisor into the classroom to give a sheet to each student of the subjects they will be studying for 11 and 12, going as non atar and no maths and that any student with a problem to contact the head department of Catholic studies. We were told that we weren't able to go to university and if to study go to TAFE and that we should apply for internships straight after graduation. I applied for two Art colleges and was accepted early entry just by portfolio of work and I jumped into TAS straight after as Art teachers at that time had a 10 year waiting list for permanent positions.

Although most students didn't know about Lantite until their last years of study, I did know before entering the TAS degree. What I didn't know was how unreliable the sources provided by Acer was as study material was updated, the lack of support mentally and academically with Lantite, that everything is recorded and that data/recording of you breaking down mid exam is stored somewhere and that someone a stranger outside Acer would be watching you while you sit your exam through the computer, that there's no support for disabilities while taking the exam and how much of a financial disaster it is. Also Acer has lost data in the past and has made students resit exams because of that and have used attempts if students had computer problems while sitting the exams at home rather a shared space which is hard to get. What's also hard is booking the exams in those spaces separately having something like a 15 minute gap in between the exams. The exams for literacy is filled with debatable questions and text that are 3 pages per question times 60, as there's 60 questions to be done in only just 2 hours. Some questions ask for specific references, however it recommended with little time you have to skim read and well.., how do you know of that reference is implied ??? For the Maths it consists of sections that you can't go back and edit and is set 30% above average adult ability in topics such as algebra and speed and distant ???, why must I know this in order to teach something like fine arts ?? I had to relearn maths and I was spending \$200 a week for tutoring balancing on my studies of TAS a field that had 22 subjects to learn and teach, most assignments you had to complete at home which took a huge chunk of your time. It just became impossible to balance with my studies and I literally had no life at all, it mentally ruined me and my relationships with the people around me. I was breaking down almost every week and running into circles, I've contemplated about taking my own life multiple times, although now I'm far from that and healing significantly. No exams is worth taking your own life and enduring all that stress and pain for an industry crippling as it is.

In my cohort 55 students failed the practice exam 4 times (the exam recently at that time introduced by ACU). Most students I found failed at least once or twice and others left paying their degrees all off. I only failed one real examination in literacy by just a mark by the shaking and stress of it all crippled me along with knowing I had failed it. I was told from my coordinator that if I fail all 3 attempts and the 4th one after a progress with a group of heads in a meeting or something that my option was to redo my education degree using my previous credits... As of recently 50% of students don't complete their teaching studies and drop and schools are now so desperate for teachers in particular tas teachers, they are doing the sneaky on going through the university to get them despite failing Lantite.

I don't understand why we are hiring and looking overseas to countries already desperate for teachers and choosing them over our own citizens with years of studies. Some countries don't even have a report system or admin work teachers are to do at home. It's why they drop and don't last here. That and how their academic skills differ too, along with language. I received a phone call from the head of NESAs in regards to that after I questioned if they have to sit it?, I was told yes but it all didn't seem genuine.

I'm excellent artist and teacher and I'm spending my time with causal work teaching on the side. I know I will be a great teacher. But this system values academics wrong and expects "every animal to climb that tree".

Sorry if there is any mistakes, yes I'm aware of most of them, if I don't send this now I'll forget and I have work now, so not a lot of time re reading and editing. I've done everything I can in reaching out, I'm exhausted like the many who are in position. I wouldn't be surprised if someone takes their own life soon in result to these issues, this pressure is unrealistic for both university and teachers.

Instagram of my portfolio of work though old 😊: . Thing I could offer if I were to be a teacher. Also I do know about the survey for shortages , it's actually closed , I did fill it out ages ago. I doubt anything I've said will be taken seriously. I wish university students had more of a voice.

Thankyou for taking the time in reading this