

INQUIRY INTO TEACHER SHORTAGES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 19 June 2022

Partially
Confidential

Submission re Inquiry into teacher shortage in NSW

I am the Head Teacher of a Mathematics faculty in a public high school on the Northern Beaches. I have been teaching for nearly 15 years and have never seen a teacher shortage like the one we are currently experiencing. On a regular basis we have senior classes uncovered and at times have junior classes collapsed as we cannot find enough casual teachers.

Mathematics casual teachers are extremely difficult to find and there have been many times when I have a staff member away and the casual replacing them is not maths trained. This has added to the stress of my already stressful job as I will end up teaching classes during my 'free' periods or I teach my class for part of the lesson and then swap with a casual to go and teach another class.

I have a history of autoimmune diseases resulting from vaccine injuries, including thrombocytopenia, which is a known side effect of the covid vaccines. When the vaccine mandates were first announced I quickly saw my doctor to get an exemption, which she agreed to without hesitation. However, the ATAGI guidelines came out soon after and my medical history did not meet these guidelines for an exemption. I was not able to teach for most of Term 4 last year but have thankfully been back this year having contracted Covid in early January and been given a 6-month exemption.

My exemption runs out during the July school holidays. I am a highly qualified Mathematics teacher who retrained as a teacher after a successful career as a Business Analyst. I have a Science degree majoring in Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics and am one of the few teachers left that can confidently teach the Mathematics Extension 1 and 2 courses. I was also the only person my school interviewed a year and a half ago when I applied for the head teacher position.

If I leave it will be very difficult to replace me and I will be adding to an already chronic shortage of maths teacher. I love my job and do not want to leave but I am fed up with the Department of Education treating teachers like myself as though we are criminals and pushing a vaccine that was developed for a strain of covid that no longer exists and has been proven to be completely useless at stopping infection and transmission. I am now ready to leave the profession if this insanity does not end.