

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I work in a comprehensive high school in the inner west of Sydney. Despite our school being perceived as a “good” school and therefore we usually don’t have an issue getting casuals but with the teacher shortage we have also not had enough casuals to cover every class and have frequently had classes on minimal supervision. Usually this is the senior classes as they are not a behavioural issue but this means that those senior students often miss out on vital teaching.

As there is a lack of staff the school is not running excursions or programs that it would normally run because we simply can’t staff it. Staff are sometimes reluctant to take time off like their long service leave or parental leave because they know their classes won’t be covered by a teacher who can teach their subject area or is consistently there.

But I am lucky because I am in a “good” school. I have heard many other stories from other schools in Western Sydney where several classes a day are in the playground or several year groups are studying from home because there are not enough staff.

Teachers are tired and don’t feel supported by an organisation that is predominantly judged and run by people who have never been in the education system and who don’t understand the complexities of the school environment. A lot more needs to be done to support teachers and attract new teachers. Reducing admin or increasing admin staff to support teachers would allow teachers to do their job of teaching and supporting students would make the job far more attractive for young teachers to join and stay in the profession.

A massive commitment is needed from all sides of politics to support this. This crisis is above party politics and needs to be supported by all sides of the political divide.