To whom it may concern,

I have been a Science teacher for 23 years in NSW public schools. In this time I have seen a massive deterioration of the learning environment. Much of this I attribute to a societal breakdown and a complete lack of consequences in our education system. Working as a classroom teacher seems to get harder each year.

From my perspective the current system of registration does nothing to raise education standards…in fact it lowers student outcomes in my school. The guidelines were clearly put together by so called "experts" who have never been teachers themselves or have been out of the classroom for a very long time. Teachers have not been consulted.

Every day I see excellent young teachers who say that they are overwhelmed by poorly designed accreditation/maintenance paperwork at a time when they are trying to establish themselves in a very difficult (often near crazy) working environment, and often with limited help from above. Teacher wellbeing and morale is at an all-time low.

One young Chemistry teacher who works with me says he spends his whole weekend on completely meaningless paperwork that will not make him a better classroom teacher. This additional workload causes already stressed out teachers to leave the profession.

Implementation of the current registration process is a complete waste of taxpayer money and the average Australian has no idea that their cash is so poorly utilised.

Older experienced teachers now have to meet a TPL requirement just for the sake of it…some smart cookie thinks that 100 hours over five years is the Magic number that will solve everything ???

Meaningful TPL is excellent…TPL because you have do it, is a waste of time. As experienced teachers, my faculty find this quite insulting.

The best TPL I do is each night at home… when I am happy, unstressed and not overwhelmed.

The answer is simple-

1) Encourage good students to do teaching
2) Train them well at UNI and then leave them be
3) Pay them well
4) Set up a system like an apprenticeship where experienced teachers help out
5) Don't set them extra work that will lead to stress and less effective teaching
6) Respect the experience of older staff and don't make them jump through ridiculous hoops just for the sake of it

Good teachers are intelligent people, enthusiastic about their subject and relaxed….nobody that I know can teach well when they are stressed out of their head.

In order to motivate students you first need to motivate teachers… presently the staff I work with are sick to death of constant increases to our workloads and unfortunately NESA and the Department do not see this.

Talk to teachers…and if they are not too scared to say anything (for fear of being targeted) they will tell you how time poor and mentally drained they are.

HAPPY TEACHERS = HAPPY STUDENTS = INCREASED LEARNING

I do love my job and of course seeing young Australians achieve.

I really hope there is something you can take from these points.

Thanks for taking the time out to read to this point.