

To: The Standing Committee on Education and Vocational Training
From: Robyn Beesley, 2/35 Broadway, Chelsea, 3196

Re:

1. Examine and assess the criteria for selecting students for teacher training courses.

2. Examine the extent to which teacher training courses can attract high quality students, including students from diverse backgrounds and experiences.

10. Examine the construction, delivery and resourcing of ongoing professional learning for teachers already in the workforce.

To whom it may concern,

I would like to make some comments regarding points 1,2 & 10 in your Inquiry re. "ongoing teacher learning".

My name is Robyn Beesley. I studied at Adelaide College of the Arts and Education and gained a Diploma of Teaching in 1979.

Since then, I have taught Food Technology (previously known as Home Economics), Textiles, Health and Human Development and Physical Education in South Australia, Victoria and briefly in the Northern Territory. I am currently working in a Catholic College as teacher of several of the above subjects and hold the Position of Leadership (P.O.L.) of Learning Area Head of Technology. I am an active, dedicated member of the school community and I enjoy my job.

When I graduated, I began teaching with a 3 year qualification. This was the last year that Adelaide offered a 3 year course as it moved in line with other states and the course became a 4 year Bachelor of Education.

This is my dilemma.

I have been employed in ongoing positions all of this time, the last 14 years being in Catholic Colleges in Victoria. The main reason for this is that the 3 year qualification has been acceptable. I have made inquiries to several Universities as I would like to bring myself in line with my colleagues (almost all of whom have a minimum 4 years qualification). What I have discovered is that I will need to do at least 2 years full time to get that extra year. This is very undesirable especially as University study is very expensive.

I feel I have at least 10 more years of teaching to go – so what do I do? I have reached the top of the incremental scale, I have a P.O.L. and I have no interest in spending \$10,000 on study that may get me no more than a pat on the back at the end.

The upgrading of qualifications must be a dilemma that others of my generation are experiencing. Recognising this and developing strategies that would open up education and training to these people, at minimal expense, would create opportunities for both employers and employees.

I hope my points have been thought provoking and useful in stimulating discussion.

Yours faithfully

Robyn J. Beesley