

To Whom it May Concern,

Fulltime teaching degrees particularly those at UWS are designed to suit young high school graduates who live at home, which in this day and age is unrealistic for its expectations. Each semester students are submitted to a full time workloads from four subjects and weeks of practical experience and all that entails, preparing lessons, research etc. Students are exhausted and do not retain the information learnt throughout semester effectively as the semester becomes a blur of trying to cope with the mountain of assignments and pressures of prac. As well students do not often achieve good grades or risk failing simply because it humanly impossible to accomplish all that is asked, this is relevant to all students but mature age students who have other external responsibilities. have extra concerns. It would seem logical that in a four year degree each semester have only three on campus subjects with the fourth being dedicated to gaining practical experience that is needed from in school. This fourth subject would include copies of lesson plans and reflections from the experience to be marked accordingly by the university. This fourth subject should be given high priority as much of what is valuable is learnt in and during practical experience. Given the present structure of the four year teaching degrees particularly at UWS many students become burnt out and either take long breaks or leave altogether simply because the pressure is too much.

Interestingly people who have degrees in other fields this can be any field such as Architecture and Landscape design can do a twelve month course Bachelor of Teaching at universities such as UWS and once finished be able to apply to teach in New South Wales schools. This is problematic in a number of areas, firstly four year teacher trained students have a gained a foundation knowledge about teaching each individual subject, the twelve moth teacher trained do not, certainly I would not want my child taught by someone who only had the most basic of knowledge in teaching practices with a background in some other field which had absolutely no relevance to the school system. Secondly four year teacher trained students are pushed to breaking to the breaking point for four years to achieve a degree in Teaching, people choosing the other twelve month format are pushed for twelve months and then only given the most rudimental and basic knowledge in teaching.

Another disturbing practice is that on graduation, under twenty fives and males of all ages are targeted by the Department of Education and Training and given preference over all other students. Female students over the age of twenty five are left to spend endless years at casual teaching considered unworthy by the department. Many wonder why, when often the mature age students are very dedicated in their studies and bring a wealth of experience, that the younger students simple do not have to teaching. This experience often includes practical experiences with children learnt by and with their own children, they have a supply of patience and are in many instance better equipped to deal with students behaviours in class. Surely this practice could be considered archaic given the amount of dedicated older students taking an interest in this degree. Over twenty fives

have not chosen this field as something which might be okay as a career, they have chosen this after years of working and decision making about where and what they want to do for the rest of their working careers. Wanting and desiring to work with children in the teaching field has not been idly decided but has been decided after years of working experience and years of knowledge gathering and experience with children, something which cannot be discarded as worthless.

Having attempted a four subject workload, this semester, along with a ten day stint in a school has left me exhausted with my children suffering emotional and psychological problems from trying to complete a unrealistic workload.

This brief submission raises the most important of issues concerning teacher training.

Yours faithfully

Vicki Goulding