

Teachers and Education

I am a preschool teacher and have also worked in schools.

The workload is huge, and I now work part time. This gives me a week day to spend, unpaid, completing school work. Otherwise, I spend my weekend planning, programming and completing work. This leads to stress and burn out.

I suggest slimming down the curriculum content.

In preschools we now are required to make a comment on the areas of literacy and numeracy in the reports. This means writing 7 comments for each child address the five areas of EYLF and literacy and numeracy. I spent weeks writing 23 pages of individual comments for preschool aged children.

We also have portfolios and learning stories. There is no time given to complete these. I do them in my own time, alongside planning and programming.

A main concern of mine is special needs students. We are given little or no support. Every year I have had 3 to 5 children with severe special needs such as ASD, speech and behaviour issues. I believe more support needs to be given to keep all children safe and give each child a chance to grow and learn. It is not just the support in the room that is lacking, but the huge amounts of paperwork that needs to be completed to create individual learning plans, help parents to get a diagnosis and to apply for support. No time or pay is given for teachers to complete this work.

Also, the introduction of online learning has lead teachers and ESO's spending hours of their own time completing WHS courses. This has become part of our job, with no time or pay.

I love teaching children; however, all the additional work does not make me a better teacher, I believe it has the opposite effect!

Thank you