

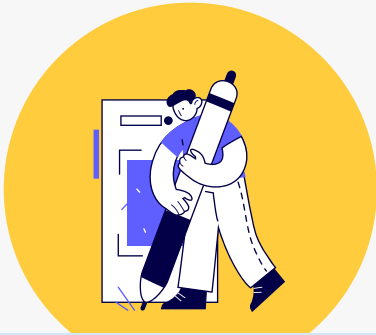


Leaving teaching

A new study from Monash University draws upon a 2019 questionnaire of **2444** Australian primary and secondary school teachers, revealing that only **41%** of respondents intended to remain in the profession. We look at some of the findings from the analysis in this infographic.

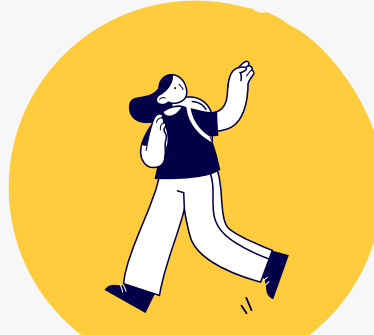
What are the main reasons teachers want to leave the profession?

The 3 most commonly recurring themes from respondents intending to leave the profession were:



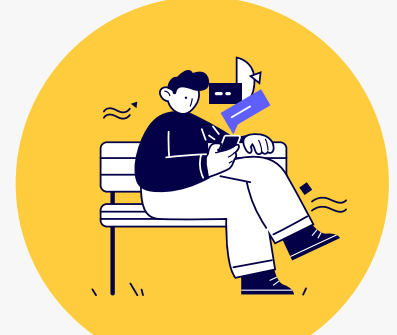
Workload

'I am always working – at night, before school, on the weekends, during school holidays. **It is not manageable long term**, and there is too much **pressure and stress** involved in the career.'



Health & wellbeing

'You work all day long, smiling, explaining and making decisions for you and the rest of your class **with no time to go to the toilet or eat your lunch.**'



Status of profession & under-appreciation

'The **public perception of teaching is often extremely negative** and the media portrayal of teachers and teaching as a profession, often leaves me feeling quite despondent about my chosen career.'

What solutions did teachers suggest?



- **Meaningful reduction in workload**, including decluttering the curriculum and clarification of what a teaching role should entail.
- **Boosting the status of the profession**, with more positive public discourse and media portrayals of teachers.

Source: Heffernan, A., Bright, D., Kim, M., Longmuir, F., & Magyar, B. (2022). 'I cannot sustain the workload and the emotional toll': Reasons behind Australian teachers' intentions to leave the profession. *Australian Journal of Education*. 0(0), 1-14. ['I cannot sustain the workload and the emotional toll': Reasons behind Australian teachers' intentions to leave the profession \(sagepub.com\)](#).

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