

Teaching has always been a life goal for me. Now that I am coming to the end of year 12 and applying for university degrees and planning for my future I am coming to deeply investigate the programs for teaching.

As an eager and passionate learner I am always finding new strategies and alternatives for certain pathways. Recently, I have been learning about the different Secondary Education Degrees across the country. I have found that most degrees take 4 years to complete, which is a decent timeframe but within these timeframes I believe that future teachers aren't getting taught what they need.

I believe there are 2 requirements that need to be met as a standard across all education degrees to ensure the enhanced quality of teachers within our country as the demand for teachers is increasing.

### 1. Teachers need practical experience.

University students are getting to their practicals of university and struggling. Being completely honest from a student's perspective I dread having practicum students as most of them have no idea how to communicate with a class or how to draw attention without being cliché. Over my years at school I have thought how I could I not be like one of those university students when presenting to a class. The best strategy I can think of was developed only very recently. It is that students volunteer as a part of their degree, one day a week at a school as a teacher's aid or something along those lines. Not only does this build a future teacher's knowledge about how to respond in the classroom, they are able to become more confident and experienced when it is time for them to teach by themselves during their practicum and once they are fully qualified. I also see this as a benefit to the education system and current teachers as the university students can assist with duties such as lesson plans to enable the teachers more time to prepare and enhance the quality of their guidance to students. We know teaching is more demanding than ever and this would relieve the strain on educators without being costly to a school, who in perspective would decline such a program as they may not be able to afford it.

### 2. Teachers should have a degree in their specialty alongside their education degree.

I believe that the quality of teachers has been diminishing and that is because the ATAR (or equivalent) is particularly low as it is a degree which we need more of in the community. Therefore, to strengthen our education I believe secondary teachers should have a degree in their specialty alongside their degree in secondary education. I understand that you are probably sitting there thinking that this would be too demanding on university students but let's look at an example;

University of Newcastle offers a double degree. Secondary Education (Mathematics) and a Pure Mathematics degree. Duration 4 years and 4 months.

That is an extra four months for mathematics teachers to become deeply knowledgeable in their field beyond the scope of the syllabus. I don't know about you but I would much rather spend an extra 4 months at University specialising in my field than teaching it with the minimum knowledge required.

My current English teacher had a degree in journalism and experience prior to becoming a teacher. I can tell you one thing about her students. They perform at a higher average than the rest of the English teachers' students at the school, I cannot tell you the exact data but it is consistent each year. It is shown that prior knowledge and experience is essential to one's secondary education. Not only

does it assist teachers in being more knowledgeable but our country will be performing at a much higher standard in the education system than others.

I will also like to draw on the opportunity to suggest a mentorship among the university and senior secondary students. My school [REDACTED] implemented a first of this program last year in conjunction with the University of Newcastle. I was one of the initial students in the program, a program the first of its kind. I was under the mentorship of Elena Prieto-Rodriguez, an associate professor, School of Education (Mathematics) of University of Newcastle. I learnt a lot from Dr Prieto about the education degree and how I should use my secondary education to its upmost potential to become the best secondary maths teacher I could be. I believe that programs like this need to be run across the country at all universities that run Education degrees. Guiding students who know that they want to become teachers and guiding them on strengthening their education and choices to be quality teachers that Australia needs.

I have plenty of more suggestions but I feel as though these are the most integral to build a better foundation within our teachers and education system.

If you would like more information or have any inquiries, please contact me at

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Thank you for listening to my perspective and I hope you hear from you's soon.

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