

Tuesday, 13 June 2000

Thankyou for your recent letter concerning the House of Representatives 'Inquiry into the Education of Boys' chaired by Dr Brendan Nelson.

I have undertaken some detailed research into this area and would like to provide some insights for the benefit of the committee. Rather than tie up your time with too much reading and repetition, I have taken the liberty of attaching two papers. One is a chapter titled 'Policing Manhood' which is soon to be published in a book edited by Professor Carl Wood. The other is a paper which is soon to be published in the British Journal of Adolescence titled 'The Quest for Modern Manhood'. These papers provide an overview of the key issues which I think your committee should be aware of. In particular, I draw the members attention to the section titled 'An agenda for the future' in the chapter 'Policing Manhood'. This Australian work has been attracting considerable international attention because of the new insights it provides into the role of masculinity in boys' development. A more detailed account was recently published as the book 'One of the Boys - Masculinity, Homophobia and Modern Manhood', Plummer DC, Haworth Press, New York, 1999.

I understand the potential political sensitivities of some aspects of this work, but the findings are of sufficient importance in my view, that these sensitivities should not compromise a balanced review of the material. I am happy to talk directly with the committee and expand on the findings and their interpretation should Dr Nelson and the members see fit.

Please note that these papers have been accepted for publication elsewhere. I hope this doesn't cause any difficulties with comittee procedures.

If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Yours with best wishes,  
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