

In response to your Inquiry into the Education of Boys, I would like to submit the following:

Of interest to me and the many parents of boys who recently have been shown at a disadvantage in literacy in schools, in particular years 1-3.

Surely the advantages of more male teachers in Infant Rooms has not been addressed and deserves your support. Overseas this idea has gained approval and in some countries has long been a model. That boys respond with respect to the male teaching profession has long been observed and without a thorough grounding in this area, pupils will lack a firm foundation. In the past Infant Mistresses did seldom allow pupils to advance unless they could read more than adequately.

I am constantly offended for the past six months by a misguided advertisement in the local paper for volunteers in a sponsored project for literacy by a Grant from the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International to the local Rotary Club of Hervey Bay Sunrise. To date they have now 70 (seventy) on call, busy mothers, the retired and unemployed. It is not in the interest of the very first profession, teaching, to advertise their failings in this way. Their call for strike action is rash and foolish. Methods not likely to restore confidence in vulnerable parents and only tarnishes their profile as a profession.

I would prefer to see other sensible ideas mooted, such as solving the constant pressure on discipline in classes, perhaps two teachers in each classroom and certainly if this is not achievable, the very old concept of classes limited to no more than twenty.

It is sad to read that bullying has reached such proportions that the Australian Council of State School Organisations has requested an annual grant of \$360 million. Recruitment of good men teachers may help reduce such a burden.

The importance of sport by men teachers could encourage socialisation by careful management for all boys and all types whether it is an eyesight or handling problem. This is too well known to be overlooked.

May I mention I have been associated with schools and education through my husband, a past Headmaster and President of the Auckland Branch of the New Zealand Educational Institute, and I have two sons.

Yours sincerely

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8 June 2000