

Rees, James (REPS)

From: Andrew Humphreys [andyh@jeack.com.au]
Sent: Thursday, 1 March 2001 10:45 AM
To: eewr.reps@aph.gov.au
Cc: steve.bracks@parliament.vic.gov.au; Lorraine Clare Elliott
Subject: Victorian Government Submission

Dr. Brendan Nelson
Chairperson
Inquiry Into the Education of Boys
28/2/01

Dear Brendan,

I thank the inquiry for the copy of the Victorian Government submission. It truly is a most disappointing document. I shall try to be very brief here but I should of course as before be prepared to document and or expand on my assertions.

The Victorian government response needs to be seen in the light of the devastating younger male social health data emanating from Victoria.

Approximately 60% of the national total of arrests for heroin related drug offences occur in Victoria.

Victoria experienced a 193% increase in armed robberies 1995-2000. This terrible data was the most significant single negative crime statistic in the most recent national crime statistics. The vast majority of these crimes will have been committed by educationally disadvantaged young men. Victoria has, over the past 20 years displayed one of the greatest and most prolonged increases in younger male suicide ever recorded. Despite this the Victorian government submission massages the data (p.26) so as to deny the scale of young male social health problems.

In regards to suicidality the Victorian government would seem to be unaware that recent evaluations show that depression screening is ineffective at preventing suicide in males and that school based suicide prevention programs have been so inept that they cause harm. (see Valuing Young Lives A.I.F.S.)

As I outlined in my submission the Victorian government does not want to acknowledge or act on the educational disaster inflicted upon, (in particular less advantaged boys), by the previous ALP government. These problems were evident to the Kennett government. Jeff unfortunately has been utterly blinded by medical concepts of and treatments for 'depression'.

Brendan I am afraid that continued federal intervention to address these issues, is the last hope another generation of young men in Victoria has.

Yours Truly

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