

Tuesday, 13 June 2000

Good luck with this project. This is government at it's best. Please be courageous and creative and the future will be bright indeed!

Submission

Most of the problems I see in boys and men are largely preventable and the long term solutions start with inquiries such as this one.

It would be arrogance indeed to think that conventional education has been successful enough or will resource boys for the requisites for rest of their lives.

We face a future where the quality and challenge of mass employment will be increasingly limited by improvements in technology - most things will be easier and less labour intensive to accomplish - and men will face long periods of partial or no work or they will have to change their skills to adapt to the new jobs offered. We need to achieve:

- robust, sensitive self worth
- absence of discrimination
- ability to communicate and solve problems.

Boys need to recognise the choices available to them and avoid the influence of forces that will or do limit these choices. I think this starts with us all acknowledging at every stage of a person's development that they are unique and special. We need to identify and nurture aptitude better and encourage boys to participate in the many opportunities and adventures life offers them without fear of ridicule or failure.

These are clear policy objectives that require skilled implementation by parents and educators.

I commend you to seek submissions from people like Bettina Arndt and bodies such as youth refuges/institutions that understand how vital prevention is when they have to deal with the fallout of current policy failure.

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