

ENDEAVOUR FORUM Inc.

Member Organisation, World Council for Life & Family

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Submission on Boys' Educational Disadvantage

In 1975 I was appointed a member of the Victorian Committee on Equal Opportunity in Schools. Because I disagreed with the contention of the other members that girls were a disadvantaged group, I wrote a Minority Report which was published as a separate volume together with the Majority Report in 1977.

1. Enclosed (**Enclosure 1**) is a summary of my Minority Report. Possibly a full copy of the Minority Report may still be available from the Victorian Education Department.

2. On page 5 of this Summary (**Enclosure 1**) is a table debunking the myths of female disadvantage. Note that the data applies not merely to education but to all areas of life - it is not females but males who are disadvantaged, using criteria by which, for example, we define Australian Aborigines as disadvantaged. These aspects of life must be taken into account when considering boys' educational problems.

3. The above table applies to 1975 when I was collecting data for my Minority Report. However, I updated the figures in 1999 (**Enclosure 2**) and the same pattern of male disadvantage is apparent.

4. **Enclosure 3** is a copy of paper we presented to the 3rd International Community Education Conference in August 1979, to which is attached an article by Diane McGuinness on "**How Schools Discriminate Against Boys**". This is important reading for all those concerned about boys' educational disadvantage.

5. **Enclosure 4** is an article by Christina Hoff Sommers "**The War Against Boys**". In our view, the imposition of feminist ideology on educational systems has had a devastating impact on boys. The issues of male disadvantage in life and health need to be addressed, not merely what happens to boys in school. For example, what is the rationale for spending vast sums of money on women's health centres when men in Australia die, on average, about 7 years earlier than women?

We would appreciate the opportunity of making a verbal presentation at any hearings that are being held..

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Yours sincerely,
Babette Francis
National & Overseas Co-ordinator