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1<sup>st</sup> July 2000

I was extremely pleased to read the recent article by Bettina Amdt in The Age, Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2000 "The trouble with boys ... Why haven't we been told?" in which it was reported that you were calling for submissions to a new inquiry with yourself as the Chairman.

As Bettina Amdt stated "Why haven't we been told?" Well, of course, many, many people have been aware of the disgraceful treatment of the white Australian male (young and older) and in particular, the dreadful figures of male youth suicide and not so young male suicides.

I have a particular involvement in a programme to help homeless youth called "Project Australia" running in Queensland at the moment. It is an extensive four-year pilot programme (see brochure attached) partially funded by government (both federal and state). The Prime Minister has been directly involved in supporting this initiative as the problem of homeless youth, notably males (9:1 ratio male to female) is huge. The number currently exceeds 40,000 in Australia.

I regularly see the young boys (15 to 17 years) presently on the programme as their Patron, but also as a medical officer and mentor. Their stories are tragic.

I would like to congratulate you and the government on your efforts to right a great wrong and wish you all the best. Could you please ensure that well balanced quality researchers such as Dr Lucy Sullivan and Mr Barry Maley, The Centre for Independent Studies, and quality researchers from other family oriented organizations, are included in your committee. It is only right that all points of view on this very vexing problem should be heard.

Please find enclosed a paper, which I wish to submit to your inquiry.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Major General W B Digger James AC MBE MC

Encl.

**SUBMISSION BY MAJOR GENERAL W B DIGGER JAMES AC MBE MC**  
**to the**  
**INQUIRY - CONCERNS ABOUT BOYS**

Thank goodness awareness is being publicised about the sorry state of the young men (and not so young) in this country. The rate of suicides in young men over the last few years has increased to an alarming rate. IN the 10years of the Vietnam war 509 young Australian male soldiers were killed. Today more than that number of young Australian males take their own lives annually.

Why is this so?

I cannot comment specifically on the education of boys, as I am not a teacher. However, I can, as can anyone else, note the disproportionate number of female teachers in the education department, which results in fewer male teachers and thus reduces good male role models for boys. The rabid feminist movement, which seems to have taken over the education department, and other departments for that matter, hat had, I argue, a devastating effect on our young men. I ask, where are the ANZACS? (refer attachment, foreword by John Masefield - poet laureate - to Edgar Rule's classic of 1933, "Jacka's Mob").

Whilst this seems a logical conclusion to me, it is evidenced by others as reported in Bettina Amdt's article "The trouble with boys Why haven't we been told?", The Age, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2000 (copy attached).

A few points I would like to add to Miss Amdt's article:

- **Break up of the home:** This has been a direct result of the devastating family laws introduced by Lionel Murphy during the Whitlam era. This law directly caused vast increases in rates of divorce, fatherless families; working mothers; latchkey children; and the escalation of the childcare industry.
- **Childcare:** it has been stated to me by a Principal of a leading girls school in Brisbane that it is well known in the teaching profession here that there is a surge of troublesome children coming through the system known as the 'formal childcare" syndrome. This syndrome is made up of children who are troublesome, disinterested in school study, and seemingly on their way to being society dropouts. The common factor of these children is that they are all products of formal childcare.
- **Care at home by the family:** Although denied by the feminists, reliable researchers in the area of family studies confirm that there is no substitute for mothers at home providing full time care for their children throughout their entire school years. The best option W mother is not available is the husband or the grandparents. Grandparents, along with mothers and fathers, are now being denigrated by selected researchers who have the audacity to suggest that grandparents should be accredited to care for their own grandchildren! (Attached article by Mr Bill Muehienberg of the Australian Family Association refers.)
- **Eradication of Sport from School Syllabi:** Sport has virtually been sidelined in government schools. This is detrimental in several ways:

health, team spirit and a means to use up surplus energy, particularly for boys. My wife and I have four children (2boys, 2 girls) and five grandchildren (3 boys, 2 girls). We have observed that there is a vast difference between the energy inherent in boys and girls, which surely is the way creation was meant to be.

I believe active participation in sport by children Whilst at school, involving their teachers, would go a long way to eradicate many of the problems of boredom which lead to so many serious social problems It would also require more male teachers which would thereby produce better control, realistic empathy, and improved management of children in general.

- **Introducing children to drugs:** We live in a society with a huge problem of drug abuse and yet, the explosion in the use of drugs is pursued lawfully by parents and others in certain areas. We have a situation where primary school children are prescribed drugs by members of our medical profession. The current modern fad is the diagnosis of so-called "Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder" (ADHD) and treatment with Dexamphetamine and Ritalin. I believe this is quite wrong medically, socially and morally.

This problem is well documented by Dr Lucy Sullivan of the Centre for Independent Studies in her article "Are we producing a generation of hyperactive zombies?", News Weekly, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2000. Dr Sullivan has reported a 21 - fold increase in the use of these drugs between 1990 and 1997 (article attached refers).

In the short time that Project Australia has been going, I have now personally managed three young people who have been diagnosed with ADHD and, in my opinion, have been prescribed Dexamphetamine and Ritalin unnecessarily. In all cases, the boys now without medication, and living actively in the bush environment, with good nourishment, are fit, sleep well and have put on weight.

- **Control of children in the classroom:** It is well known that teachers are having increasing difficulties in controlling children at school and in the classroom. The ADHD gimmick is evidence of this. Anyone who has tried to manage an organization knows full well that management and control is achieved fundamentally by one or both of two means. These means are the "carrot' or the stick".

We have taken the stick' away from teachers and nowadays we feed "carrots" to our children mercilessly. It is surely time that teachers are given the authority to adequately apply appropriate disciplinary measures to control inappropriate behaviour. The "no punishment' process proclaimed by a United Nations Convention, and slavishly followed by Australia, is nonsense.

- **Australia must once again support the traditional family:** Above all, government policy must be reversed to once again support the traditional family of a man and woman married with children, with one parent at home, should they choose, to care for their children from birth

to the completion of their school years. Families, in which one parent chooses to remain at home with their children, should have equal financial and unbiased support from government, as those families in which both parents choose to join the paid workforce.

By remaining at home, the parent is able to conduct a safe, reliable and loving home to which the children return for succour and safekeeping, afternoon tea and a talk about the trials and tribulations of the school day, in their own child like way. (The attached News Weekly article of 5th June 1999 by Jane Wilks entitled "Parenting does not end at school entry" refers.)

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- (1) Project Australia - Caring for Youth brochure.
- (2) Poet laureate John Masefield's foreword to "Jacka's Mob".
- (3) Bettina Amdt article The Age, Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2000: "The trouble with boys ... Why haven't we been told?".
- (4) Bill Muehienberg article News Weekly, 20th May 2000: "Formal child care: popular only in the feminist imagination"
- (5) Dr Lucy Sullivan article News Weekly, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2000: "Are we producing a generation of hyperactive zombies?"
- (6) Jane Wilks article News Weekly, 5<sup>th</sup> June 1999: "Parenting does not end at school entry"

### **Also attached for your Information:**

1. "Executive Summary - Issue Analysis" 28<sup>th</sup> June 2000, by Alison Rich, Policy Analyst with the "Taking Children Seriously" research Programme.
2. "Boy Trouble" Jennifer Buckingham Policy Analyst, The Centre for Independent Studies, Courier Mail "Perspectives" 12th June 2000.
3. "insidemail" Courier Mail 1<sup>st</sup> July 2000
  - 'For all mankind'
  - Spurious reasons for appalling injustice'
  - 'I am 53 and, .....

W B D James  
Brisbane  
3<sup>rd</sup> July 2000