

Dr Brendon Nelson MP
Parliament House
Canberra

Submission 170
EofB Inquiry (Exh 74)

Dear Dr Nelson

Re Your Concerns As Spelt Out on 60 Minutes.

I thank you for the opportunity to discuss my research findings on the subject matter of why Australian school girls are out performing their boy counterparts.

I realise your Government, since it has been in office, has made commendable inroads into rectifying major problems and obvious mistakes made over the years in our Australian Education systems. However, as you no doubt realise there is a long way to go.

Please accept with complements a copy of my book "Where's That Bloody Rabbit" a book on the training and employment of Australia's youth. My critics tell me, I repeat myself, I am not grammatically correct and it should have been written twenty years ago, I now find the employment pathway programs are being introduced into our education systems so perhaps I have found a kindred spirit somewhere in the Federal Government.

I was delighted to see on the TV a High School in the Newcastle region running an employment pathways pilot program, but devastated when the now head of the ACTU (Sharen Burrows) proclaimed her union was against those employment pathways being introduced into the education system. Maybe this program could have been a vital precursor to boys striving for achievements through competition and hence better results.

In business we compete every day against our opposition to provide superior goods and services. This reflects then, on the importance of the *competition factor* in everyday life from the apprentice right up to the managing director.

We have seen our education systems trying to make everyone equal by interfering with the competitive spirit of our youth when in reality everything we do is dependent on competition. The lowering of standards, where examination results have little meaning in Industry and Commerce appears to have effected boys more than girls. This lies at the very heart of your government's concerns as to why girls are out performing boys.

It is perhaps also relevant that since the wider use of co-education, boys have through their physiological differences been at a disadvantage. It appears that girls have adapted to these changes easier than boys.

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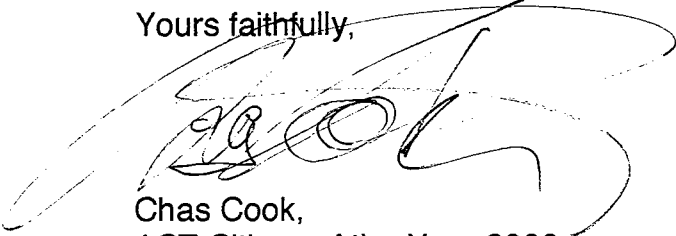
I also believe the advent of affirmative action has adversely effected the progress of boys. There may also be a correlation between this and the policies of governments and unions which have focused on careers for females in particular the teaching profession.

The National Competition Policy Report , (August 19 93) sets the scene for open competition in Industry and Commerce . It behoves the government to amend the education systems to underpin this policy by the introduction of a *Competition Policy* in schools which could have a major impact upon the performance of boys as they prepare for working life.

I trust that these few ideas will be of some assistance to you and your committee.

I look forward to the completion of your report and would appreciate a copy.

Yours faithfully,



Chas Cook,
ACT Citizen of the Year 2000.
2 Ireland Place,
Wanniassa.
ACT 2903
28 - 11 - 2000.