

Carolyn van Langenberg

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RE: THE EDUCATION OF BOYS

I know seven young men who attended inner-city west (Sydney) state primary schools and Fort Street High School, a selective high school in Sydney.

All come from stable families in which both parents have tertiary qualifications. The fathers have had continuous professional employment - one in law, one an actor, one an architect and the other four as university academics.

Only three of the young men have completed a university degree. None have undertaken post-graduate studies.

Of the other four, all have remained in employment - three in IT and one as a gardener. Two have completed TAFE course.

You would expect these young men, most of whom I have known since playgroup days, to be well-educated. That they are not, and can see no purpose in education but the functional base, makes a statement contradicting the image of the clever country.

The stories of these seven young men deserve to be known.

Sincerely,

Carolyn van Langenberg