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I would like to air my views on the education of boys in our schools.

Successive Governments have run down the education dollar and as such have caused males in the population to bypass education as a real career.

Pay rates for teachers are not terribly sexy and there appears to be no real career structure for teachers both, males and females to climb the ladder.

As a consequence, there are not many males in the system, particularly at the coal face, teaching.

Thus, teaching has become a haven for ladies teaching and as a result our little boys go from one mother at home to another one at school.

Ladies are attracted to schooling as it is secure, provides a reasonable level of income, has good leave opportunities and fit around their own school children's holidays.

Our boys have few male role models at school as generally men do not want to teach as the salary is not enough to support a family, the holidays are great and good for a working mother but not adequate for a father. Believe it or not stereo types still exist no matter what people, bureaucrats and elected parliamentarian's believe they know.

Also, it has caused me particular concern that the level of education attained by people entering the teaching profession has been rather savagely eroded whereby some people who are budding teaching aspirants have barely passed their own year 12 exams.

The reason is that generally teaching is not a sexy profession any more, few people are applying and the universities are offering places to some people who are inadequate at obtaining an education for themselves and now are being trained to teach our kids. God forbid!!!!

We have to encourage our kids to learn from and respect teachers.

Teachers must be encouraged to perform, and given adequate resources and compensation to want to undertake teaching as a profession, not to be coerced by a low TER score so they get off the unemployed listing.

The other alternative is that our kids will be taught by dummies, why is this so????

Another concern to me is that funding for Reading Recovery programs have been eroded.

If children can not read they will be savagely ridiculed and live an incomplete life. Why is this so?????

Funding must be increased to give all people an opportunity to read and hopefully not live a life of insecurity and loss of hope.

Ireland has invested heavily in its education system, it is now the leader in Europe for IT education and training.

As the illustrious Keating said we are at the Ass end of the world, why cant we stand up and make the rest of the world take note that we are a highly educated population, and a good place to relocate industry to.

Lets get on with & stop procrastinating and educate the masses, actively promote men within the profession and positively discriminate in favour of men within the schools, and make education a profession that is respected again.

Pump more money into education and make the profession respected again.

Get on with it.

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