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Commonwealth of Australia

House of Representatives  
Standing Committee on  
Education and Training

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## Inquiry into the Education of Boys

### MEDIA ALERT

#### ***Att: National media & education reporters***

***STORY ON: Monday 21 October 2002***

## **Boys: Getting it right — Report Released**

The House Education Committee today released its report on the education of boys. *Boys: Getting it right* makes 24 recommendations in the areas of gender equity policy, teacher education, literacy teaching, male teachers, men in schools and topics requiring further research. Key recommendations aim to:

- establish a new national policy framework providing for joint and complementary education strategies for boys and girls;
- provide merit-based HECS-free scholarships to equal numbers of men and women to undertake teacher training;
- promote strategies that teachers can use to more effectively engage all boys and girls by taking into account their different learning styles;
- promote integrated approaches to teaching literacy which include a strong element of explicit, intensive phonics instruction; and
- ensure that pre-service and in-service teacher education adequately addresses literacy issues, pedagogy and the importance of good student/teacher relationships as the necessary basis of good teaching.

The Committee Chair, Mr Kerry Bartlett MP, said “The Committee has considered boys’ underachievement in its social and economic context and concluded that just as there is no single cause of the underachievement of boys, there is no single solution. However, it is convinced that the current Gender Equity Framework does not adequately address boys’ needs and should be revised to more effectively address the needs of boys as well as girls. Other keys to improving boys’ educational engagement and achievement include promoting higher literacy achievement, the adoption of more appropriate teaching strategies for boys, and supporting teachers to build productive relationships with all students. Much of it boils down to boys feeling respected and valued because teachers and parents listen to them and take a genuine interest in their concerns.”

“In seeking to change the current framework to address boys’ needs in education, the Committee has been mindful that many girls also underachieve and their interests also need to be considered. While the focus of the report is on strategies to support boys, many of the recommendations promote strategies that will support all underachieving students and none should adversely affect any particular group of students.”

For information on the inquiry, including submissions and public hearing transcripts, visit: [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/edt/reports.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/edt/reports.htm)

**The report is also available from the website, and from the Committee Secretariat Office (R1-106).**

To arrange media comment, contact **Mr Kerry Bartlett, MP**, Chair of the House Education Committee, on **(02) 4751 7494**.

For background information contact the Committee Secretariat (02) 6277 2121.