

7 August 2000

**A Submission from Mr Michael Atkins, on behalf of The Scots College, Sydney.**

We provide a number of programmes/measures/tactics that have become or are becoming accepted practice here at Scots, in our attempt to address 'The education of Boys' In no particular order and please note that theoretical rationales are not included.

I can provide more detailed information about any of these programmes if need be.

1 We have remained a single -sex school which has allowed us to focus upon areas that are of concern to all of our students.

2 We have encouraged a great expansion of the performing arts and Music.

Over 300 boys out of a school enrolment of 1320 are learning a musical instrument.

(another 150 are in the Pipes & Drums Band)

3 We have, with the assistance of consultants such as Dr Julia Atkin, developed an Integrated Studies programme in Years 7-9. This is a skilled base approach to the teaching of English, History and Geography. It has pastoral care implications also, as the boys have one teacher instead of three and s/he can more easily track their progress, particularly in literacy.

4 We have developed a long-stay Outdoor Campus, "Glengarry" where all year 9 boys spend two terms continuing their academic curriculum, but married to it is an intensive Outdoor Education programme which concentrates on important life skills and experiential education. It also provides a 'rite of passage' at a pivotal stage in a boy's life.

5 We have appointed a Director of Pastoral Care as an acknowledgement of the increasing importance of this aspect of boys education. The Director has a brief to develop a school-wide programme of pastoral care which can be partly delivered within the Tutor group meetings held every morning.

6 We actively encourage Community Service by each of the 11 Houses in the College adopting a charity and raising money for it in the course of the year.

7 We have been pro-active in appointing female members of staff in order to maintain a gender balance in this area.

8 At a time when many young males are unsure of society's perception of their role we have maintained the 'traditional' male activities such as compulsory sport and compulsory co-curricular Activities, thereby gleaning the benefits of these but marrying to them the educational benefits of a wider curriculum that reflects an understanding of the demands of Boys' Education.

Should you wish to know more about our way of doing things here at Scots please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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