

The Committee Secretary  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Training  
Suite R1 106  
Parliament House  
Canberra  
ACT 2600

Dear Mr. Selth,

Canberra High School has participated in the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge for over 10 years. Participation is optional but students have to audition for selection. Both boys and girls audition, from Years 8 – 10, although the numbers of girls to audition is much greater.

We do have boys represented most years and this year we have 5 boys and 81 girls making up our dancers.

The students spend all of term one and half of term two choreographing and learning the dance, which culminates in the Canberra Heat, held on the 31<sup>st</sup> May. The boys do start off feeling a little awkward, however by the time the performance day arrives they have developed confidence, improved self-esteem and they work cooperatively with others. They develop pride in their achievements and are quite excited about the performance gaining personal enjoyment and reward for their hard work.

We also have a number of boys who work backstage again gaining confidence, improving self-esteem and learning to work cooperatively with others. They are responsible for set design and props and they have to be organised to meet the deadlines required of them. This year we also had two boys interested in lighting and they represented the school in a production workshop during their own time. They not only improved their own knowledge in this subject area but they presented both an oral and written account of important information.

I believe participation in this event has been very beneficial to the boys involved and may encourage others to be involved in future years.

This program involving boys is complementary to other Canberra High programs which aim to improve the self confidence of and learning outcomes for boys.

Yours sincerely  
Sam Beattie  
One of the organizing teachers for Rock Eisteddfod.