

**Endeavour Forum**  
**Barwon Region Co-ordinator: Alan Barron,**  
**24 Beltana Street, Grovedale, Vic 3216.**  
**Phone. (03)5243 0205.**  
**e-mail abarron@iprimus.com.au**

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Firstly we would like to thank the Federal Government for launching this long overdue enquiry into boys disadvantage in education. Enclosed below is our submission. Boys are being severely disadvantaged in Australian educational systems today. This means that boys self esteem is falling and they are failing to gain entrance to our universities. Just to give you some idea of how much ground boys have lost, in 1970 males comprised approx 70 per cent of tertiary enrolments. Today that figure has dropped to just 46 per cent. Females numbers have risen in the same time from 30% to 54%, a huge increase.

Something must be done. We urge the Standing Committee to carefully consider our recommendations.

This paper is divided into three sections:

- 1 The reality
- 2 The solution, and
- 3 The problem

Please acknowledge the safe arrival of this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Barron, Convenor.

**Submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Workplace Relations.**

From **Endeavour Forum**, Barwon Region Co-ordinator (and author of this submission) Alan Barron.

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## The reality

1. Boy's VCE results up to 20 per cent below female results.
  2. Males make up a paltry 44 per cent of university enrolments, females now dominate most tertiary courses,
  3. Boys than twice as likely as girls to drop out of High School,
  4. The overwhelming number of remedial students are male,
  5. Typical boy is 1 1/2 years behind the typical girl in reading and writing, is less committed to school and less likely to go to college,
  6. Male unemployment rates for almost every category is higher than female rate,
  7. Male unemployment rates for graduates is up to 40 percent higher than equivalent female graduate,
  8. Deliberate bureaucratic conspiracy to keep educational system orientated to meeting only girls education needs. This is big, big problem.
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## Facts

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1. Completed Final Yew at High School.....	66%	77%
2. <i>School leavers who continue into higher education (1990) .....</i>	<i>32,000</i>	<i>39,000</i>
3. Studying for Bachelor Degrees .....	166,409 1	74,189
4. Total percentage of total student placements at tertiary institutions		
In 1963 .....	70	30
In 1992 .....	48	52
In 1997 .....	44	56
5. Unemployment rates for graduates	21%	14%
6. On a test for mastery of literacy, at age 10, the average standard acquired was	46	59

## Boys disadvantage in education

### ***Solution***

1. **Employ more male teachers** in primary and secondary schools, particularly in primary schools. A minimum of 60 per cent male recruitment for the next three years, followed by 50 per cent there after.
2. **Retire all affirmative action programs.** All girls' educational policies should be incorporated into a gender educational policy which equally represents the interests of both boys and girls. All girls' policies, to be made redundant as such policies have served their purpose and gone post their use-by-date.
3. **Retire all affirmative action programs for women In terms of hiring and promotion.** No quotas for women for promotion to Vice Principal or principal positions.
4. **That parents be incorporated Into local decision-making processes on gender issues** regarding the education of their children.
5. **That a gender-inclusive approach to education be dropped** in favour of a parental model developed at the local school level. This approach allows flexibility and allows schools to adopt an approach suitable for local needs. This included the freedom to choose a more traditional approach should the majority of parents desire that, or a balance between the old and the new. There should be boys only classes in addition to boys only subjects.
6. **That the Office of the Status of Women be upgraded to become gender inclusive and include men's rights.** Thus it would become the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission which looks out for all sections of the Australian community and not just the female half.

## The big, really big problem.

Whether policy makers -especially male decision makers - will have the guts to stand up to femocrats, equal opportunity bureaucrats and say "enough is enough", and to go into

# bat for a fair deal for boys nothing more - nothing less.

It's time the political and educational systems recognised that boys (half the population) are entitled to have their disadvantage in education addressed after two decades of neglect - due to the implementation of strident feminist demands which now have shown to be dubious on some counts. This is not a 'male backlash' but a simple recognition that boys are entitled to a fair go too. Nor is a plea to help boys an attempt to hinder girls education. What is in view here is equal treatment for both sexes.