

Dear Members

SMC&PA Submission 182
Received: 13 May 2013

After watching the experts gather and discuss before the members of the inquiry I was compelled to write after hearing a comment by Peter Ridd. At the 52 minute mark he commented: "Teenage boys are mostly completely hopeless." A statement that pervades education debate and general social conversation.

I know the context in which it was made and what was said afterwards by Ridd. However, even though he said this tongue in cheek, I believe it needs to be commented upon.

Most of the submissions are from male teachers. Most are responding in a negative way about the current system. Not only did Ridd assert the point out that the current system disadvantages boys I WILL STATE that the current system DISCOURAGES MALE TEACHERS.

From the Queensland Government Statistician, Schools Queensland, 2012, Source: ABS 4221.0, released 20 March 2013, 10:30 am AEST

"Of full-time-equivalent primary school teaching staff in Queensland, the female-to-male ratio has increased from 3.5 in 2002 to 4.1 in 2012. Similarly, for full-time equivalent secondary school teaching staff, the female-to male ratio has increased from 1.3 in 2001 to 1.5 in 2012"

In percentages, because everyone can understand those (I was tempted to write criteria for what the numbers mean)

The percentage of Primary School Teachers that are Female went from: 78% in 2002 to 80% in 2012

The percentage of Secondary School Teachers that are Female went from: 56% in 2002 to 60% in 2012

When Julie Ann McCullough was QTU president it was reported in Cathnews that she was "not worried" about the lack of male teachers. She was quoted as saying:

"In our view, it is more important to have a range of backgrounds in schools, people from Aboriginal and Islander backgrounds and teachers with disabilities, rather than concentrating on the male and female teacher role," Ms McCullough said.

What is the current position of the QTU?

From <http://www.couriermail.com.au/ipad/men-turning-away-from-teaching/story-fn6ck51p-1226310681301> the current QTU president Kevin Bates said while students needed to have contact with both genders to be exposed to appropriate role models, it was the quality of a teacher that was most important.

It hasn't changed.

It is amazing to think that the perfect teacher is an amorphous genderless being. This comes from a union that has a membership dominated by women and then has a "Women Teachers and Girls Education Committee."

It is men that are the minority in education! What about my "feelings" about gender bias in education?

To these people I suggest the following:

Read the book: *The War against Boys: How misguided feminism is harming our young men.*

Read chapter 10 of *SHAM* by Steve Salerno. Its title is: "I'm Ok, You're . . . How do you spell Ok again?"

Do an internet search of "lack of male teachers in primary schools".

It is a problem!

Thank you

Ian Pink

Monday, 20 May 2013