

Submission

No 70

INQUIRY INTO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 9-14 YEARS IN NSW

Organisation: New South Wales Parents Council
Name: Ms Michelle Fitzgerald
Position: Executive Officer-Communications
Telephone: 02 9955 8276
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8th May 2008

The Committee Manager
Committee on Children and Young People
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Hon Carmel Tebbutt MP,

It is with pleasure that the New South Wales submits the attached submission relating to the Parliamentary inquiry into children and young people aged between 9 and 14 in New South Wales. Our Executive has approved our submission. It was also noted by the Executive that the high gender imbalance in teaching staff is also an issue for children aged between 9 and 14. Encouraging males to be teachers in NSW would provide a more balanced education and values structure. We look forward to receiving the outcomes of the Inquiry in due course. Please contact the Council should you require further information.

Yours Sincerely,

Michelle FitzGerald
Executive Officer-Communications
NSW Parents Council





2nd May 2008

New South Wales Parents Council Submission for-NSW Parliamentary inquiry into Children and Young People 9-14 Years in NSW

1. Needs-

Children and young people between the ages of 9 and 14 have a huge need for growth and development. It is a time of a person's life where many life skills are learnt and reinforced. To break these needs down further we see them as -

1. A good education
2. The need for a loving, caring and safe environment
3. Have life's parameters set through a disciplined and structured environment
4. Cultural and sporting/exercise opportunities
5. The learning of social skills
6. Having sound emotional well-being and support
7. Family financial security

2-Variances

2a-Age

Need	Not Great extent- 1	2	3	4	Great extent 5
Educational	✓				
Caring safe environment		✓			
Disciplined & structured environment	✓				
Social			✓		

Cultural & sporting	✓				
Emotional	✓				
Financial					✓

2b- Gender

Need	No Gender difference- 1	2	3	4	Gender difference 5
Educational	✓				
Caring safe environment	✓				
Disciplined & structured environment				✓	
Social			✓		
Cultural & sporting	✓				
Emotional			✓		
Financial	✓				

2c- Disadvantage

Locational disadvantage variance

We note that the needs of children and young people aged between 9 and 14 do not vary according to their location however they may be harder to meet. Children aged between 9 and 14 may have limited access to services, activities and support networks due to poor rural or regional facilities and/or transport networks.

Students with Disability disadvantage variance

We note that the needs of children aged between 9 and 14 that have disabilities do not vary however they are harder to meet if disadvantaged by location or financial situations.

3. Services

We note that there appear to be many more opportunities and services for children older than 14 to participate in services that may help in developing resilience. However the following is a list of those activities, services and support networks that may be available to children aged between 9 and 14 -

1. Pastoral care (including Church youth groups and Sunday School)
2. A huge variety of social and competitive sports
3. Positive family interaction
4. Mentoring
5. Community activities including music, scouts, dance, drama, art
6. After school care programs
7. School holiday camps

Additional services that could be provided to help parents would include-

1. Community tutoring workshops for after school based in a public place and able to be accessed by all children in the age group.
2. Regular banking opportunities through school (as apparent in previous generations) to teach children how to deal with finances on their own thus developing financial resilience.
3. Approved and supervised Community transport systems for young children whose parents are unable to transport them to necessary services and support.

4. Affect of current work place practices

4a- The Impact on children 9-14 from current work place practices include;

1. Latch key kids- dangerously unsupervised in the home/community
2. Expensive afterschool care
3. Absent parental influence
4. Increased stress on all family members
5. Reliance on extended family (if available) or paid help
6. Lack of parental relationship building with school
7. Reliance on holiday care programs which may be costly
8. Increased potential for parental 'guilt purchases' for children
9. Higher risk of health issues as a result of poor diet or minimal opportunity to recuperate in the home.
10. Children with both parents working traditional full-time jobs run the risk of being unable to participate in extra-curricular activities.

4b- Possible changes to work place practices that would potentially benefit children aged 9-14 include;

1. Flexible working hours
2. Job sharing
3. Work from home
4. Paid parental leave when children are ill.