

Legal and Constitutional
References/Legislation Committee

RE: Inquiry into the Sex Discrimination Amendment (Teaching Profession) Bill
2004

The Australian Associations of Christian Schools (AACS) has in its membership two large associations namely Christian Schools Australian (CSA) and Christian Parent Controlled Schools (CPCS) as well as several independent member Christian Schools. In total over 250 Christian schools educating in excess of 75,000 students and employing some 5,000 teachers.

The proposed amendment to the Act would provide for scholarships to males undertaking teacher education for pre-school and primary schools teaching. AACS recognizes the significant imbalance in the composition of the teaching force particularly at primary school level. AACS would support scholarships for males proposed in the amendment as long as it is in addition to the number of teacher education places already available to both males and females in higher education. This provision is not dissimilar to the range of affirmative actions taken in education at Commonwealth and State/Territory level in the 1980s and early 90s to support the education of girls and their participation in education particularly in certain subjects at the senior secondary level.

The Inquiry into boy's education demonstrates the need for a more appropriate balance in the composition of the teaching force particularly at primary level.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Peter A Crimmins
Executive Officer
AACS