

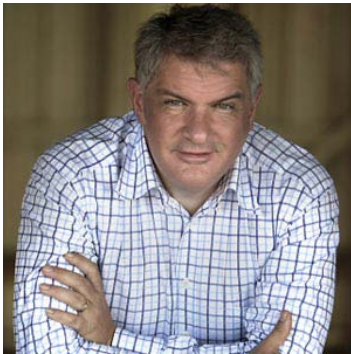
National Boys' Education Conference K-12

Boosting boys' achievements

Why some bullying policies in boys' schools don't work and what we can do about it?

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Bullying is a form of aggression, characterised by repeated psychological or physical oppression, involving the abuse of power in relationships to cause distress or control another. It is a complex and serious problem which expresses differently according to age, gender, culture and technology.

A 1996 study, by Professor Ken Rigby in Australia, found that 1 in 6 children reported being bullied weekly and being bothered by it. In 2006, Dr Jean Healey, an educational psychologist at the University of Western Sydney, released the results of a 10-year study into bullying and found that the prevalence was 1 in 5 and the latest Australian study commissioned by the Federal Government surveyed 7,000 children from 124 schools nationally and found that bullying was now 1 in 4.

This data suggests that the prevalence of bullying is increasing and, in comparison to other countries, Australia has one of the highest rates of bullying in the developed world. It would appear that the existing bullying policies seem ineffective. This workshop explores what lies behind this increase and brainstorms some solutions to the problem.

BioNote

Dr Michael Carr-Gregg is a tireless researcher and psychologist. He has contributed an enormous body of work in the area of adolescent mental health and in parenting adolescents. Michael has been the Consultant Psychologist to the Victorian Secondary School Principals' Association, Australian Boarding Staff Association, Australian Ballet School, St Catherine's School, and Melbourne Girls' College. In 2003, he was one of the founding members of the *National Coalition Against Bullying* and became one of their national spokespersons. He also served on the advisory committee for the Federal Government's Boys' Education Lighthouse School Programme.

Selected publications from Dr Carr-Gregg include: *Real wired child*, *When to worry*, *Princess Bitchface Syndrome*, *Surviving Year 12 : A sanity kit for students and their parents*