

National Boys' Education Conference K-12

Boosting boys' achievements

What's happening to our boys?

Maggie Hamilton

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<http://www.maggiehamilton.org/index.html>



What kind of world are our boys growing up in? Why are increasing numbers of boys suffering body image and self-esteem problems? Why do they feel worthless without the latest branded toy, game or item of clothing? What makes soft drinks, snacks and fast foods so attractive? Why are they drawn to countless acts of violence on TV, in movies and in computer games? What impact does our highly sexualised climate and our emphasis on success and money have on them as they grow? And why are so many boys vulnerable to cyberbullying and to porn?

Childhood and teenage life is changing rapidly, leaving parents exhausted and confused as to how best to tackle the many issues they face. How does this high-pressure environment affect a boy's confidence, his values and aspirations, his wellbeing, his sense of community, his attitudes to girls and women?

Maggie asks these and many other vital questions throughout this presentation, as well as providing numerous tips for parents and educators on how to create a more promising future for our boys.

BioNote

Writer, teacher and publisher, Maggie Hamilton's professional commitments have included serving on the executive committee of the Sydney Peace Foundation and as member of the organising committee for the Federation Australian Women's History Project, the Office for the Status of Women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Maggie's many books include *What Men Don't Talk About And Why*, based on her research into the lives of men and boys and how they see their world. In her newly completed book *What's Happening to Our Boys?* Maggie puts the lives of our boys under the microscope, uncovering the issues they struggle with, and how best they can be supported.