

## Royal Commission on Family Violence

My name is John White. I as father of two beautiful girls 12 and 14. I speak a concerned parent and I have had been pursuing an idea, which I believe our society needs to reduce the incidence of Family Violence.

I have an idea that I have on reducing the incidence of violence against women as well as other negative behaviors'.

I believe in that violence against women and other negative behavior can be reduced if the population is better equipped to understand and avoid getting in these situations.

My idea is to teach people how to do so within the schooling system.

Here is my thinking

My perception is that Politician's, educational bureaucrats appears they have made the flawed assumption that the family unit is the primary teacher of moral values, self-esteem and relational skills. It quite clear that a percentage of family units in Australia (perhaps numbering in the millions) do not have the all the adequate skills needed to raise emotionally balanced and mentality matured individuals.

My idea is that is that if relationships to others and relationship to self (self-worth and analytical skills) were taught as a subject in school not just a one or a couple of sessions but as part of the full time high school curriculum, it could be of massive benefit, particularly for children from families of varying degrees of relational dysfunction. As we both know, there are a significant number of people "in this boat".

This curriculum would raise the issue of why is it that some people unfortunately appear to have little or no ability to identify negative and destructive behaviors in the first instance or at least early on in a relationship, and even less ability to manage them? The curriculum would train young people in developing understanding and skills in this area

This curriculum as a part of High School that would teach students (particular girls) to learn to have the skills to identify what are selfish and controlling behaviors and traits, and also how to be equipped to manage and avoid getting involved in (deeper relationships). This would assist people (particularly girls) making decisions in choosing long term partner(s) that are more sharing, thoughtful and considerate as well as being giving rather that selfish, controlling and violent. This may reduce the rate of violence

I would also hope that this curriculum would as well, help young people to identify a possible causes of the tendency to indulge in negative behaviors and additions. That young people would learn to value themselves and perhaps in the future reduce the incidence of suicide, and chemical and gambling addictions.

I would envisage as this part of this "curriculum" it would tested and examined and in the event of a "fail" it could be a catalyst for referral of external professional support if there is evidence of the issues that a young person may require assistance in, when there is an assessment that negative behaviors' could be potentially manifesting themselves.

Other questions that the curriculum would address is perhaps why is it that I have little or no ability to identify these negative and destructive behaviors at the first instance, and even less ability to manage them? This curriculum would train young people in these skills.

Young people would be taught to assess what is good for me? What is good for others as well? What is acceptable conduct in the way people relate to me? What are acceptable ways for me to relate to others? How do I set and manage to ensure peoples conduct toward me is acceptable?

Young people would also be taught to examine if there are issues in the past that are subconsciously driving or could trigger negative behaviors. Also what extent are various types of influences that affect members of my family that have a direct impact on me?

Other questions are; why is it that so many young people have little or no ability to identify negative and destructive behaviors at the first instance, and even less ability to manage them?

This idea for a new High School curriculum needs to be directed to the attention of appropriate people for their interpretation and development. Which would be Educators, Psychiatrists', Psychologists mental health experts and Social workers. I do have some understanding who the appropriate authorities to ask are, but they are not listening to me.

This curriculum needs to be developed and determined to find out what are the skills that people need to know, and then to develop an educational platform to deliver this on behalf of the Federal State Governments through the educational system.

As an individual who is not tertiary educated I am not the one to assess disseminate develop and deliver this idea, but every contact of who I believe is appropriate to start this journey is ignoring me.

I would love to able to see a more emotionally aware and intelligent, kinder, caring and more relationally equipped society and I firmly believe this is a positive way forward to avoid much grief and pain the future, with individuals that are more equipped to take care of themselves, make better decisions and be able to assist others.

I hope the Royal Commission will be able to assist in moving the concept forward of equipping and training young people the schooling system to better manage their relationships and as a consequence making better choices in life.

In pursuit of this idea I have written to the principal of the high school my daughters attend to ascertain currently what is the current spread and amount of teaching and equipping young people to be more discerning, insightful and both relationally mature and relationally mature

Kind regards

John White