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**The Factors Influencing Females'  
Participation in University Bursaries  
Physical Education.**

A thesis submitted by Wendi Girven to Massey University College of  
Education in partial fulfilment of M.Ed (Spec Ed) in January, 1997.

## ABSTRACT

The under-representation of females in University Bursaries Physical Education compared to their male counterparts was investigated to discover what factors influence females' participation. A variety of approaches including a postal survey, student and teacher perceptions questionnaires, focus group interviews and an informal discussion with physical educators were employed to examine the complexities and interpretations of Physical Education and sporting involvement as a physical phenomenon for females. An examination of the personal characteristics, needs, situational circumstances, the context and organisation of University Bursaries Physical Education revealed insights into the type of programmes that attract and cater for the interests of females. Results indicate that a 'gender-sensitive' and 'gender-fair' dimension was evident in those schools surveyed. Females believed that the curriculum was providing appropriate knowledge, skills, insights, attitudes and motivations that enabled them to develop their unique needs and abilities. It is anticipated that the information presented, the questions raised and the implications for future research and practice, will serve as catalysts for further discussion and research.

## Preface and Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge and thank the many people that have contributed to this research. In particular, the schools surveyed in the postal survey, students and teachers who participated in answering the questionnaires, students and teachers who participated in focus group interviews and the group of physical educators who participated in an informal discussion. Without your co-operation and insights our research would not have been possible.

I would also like to thank my family for their constant interest, unstinting support, generous encouragement, patience and tremendous tolerance. Thank you to my friends and colleagues for their inspiration, friendship, helpfulness and understanding.

Special appreciation is also extended to my supervisors, Dr Don McAlpine and Roseanna Bourke for their combined and unique talents, invaluable assistance, advice and unfailing support. I have valued greatly the constant feedback and regular guidance.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge Eileen Snell, Gael Head, Joan Gill, Ted Drawneek, Glennis Wallbuton, Wynne Sutcliffe, Robyn Laurent, Janette Blair, Elizabeth Spooner, Garry Willacy, Karen Sewell, Janiene Ashbridge, Charlotte Humphrey, Margaret-Mary Long, Carl Nugent, Jane Abbiss, and Massey University's Extramural Librarians for their many and varied invaluable and often indescribable contributions.

To Eunice P. Mahoney, I am indebted to you for nurturing and cultivating my Advanced Physical Education interests and energies.

It has taken a team to make a dream!



Wendy Gurner

I sincerely thank you all.

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