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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

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It has taken a team to make a dream!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wendy Gurner". The signature is written in black ink and is enclosed within a large, elegant, hand-drawn oval flourish that extends across the width of the page.

I sincerely thank you all.

Table of Contents

Abstract	.....	(ii)
Preface and Acknowledgments	.....	(iii)
Chapter One: Introduction	.....	1
Chapter Two: Literature Review	.....	13
	Programming for the Interests, Needs and Abilities of Females in Physical Education.....	13
	Physical Education: A Socio-historical Overview.....	15
	Health and Fitness	23
	Socialisation Factors Influencing Participation	28
	Gender and Equity for Excellence in Physical Education.....	48
Chapter Three: Methodology	.....	68
Chapter Four: Results	.....	96
Chapter Five: Discussion	.....	157
	Gender Issues in University Bursaries Physical Education.....	157
	Factors Influencing Participation in UBPE.....	165
	Current Perceptions of UBPE.....	180
	Benefits of University Bursaries Physical Education...	184
	Background Information and Experiences of Physical Education.....	193
	Limitations of the Study.....	198
	Further Research.....	199
References	References.....	203
Appendix A: Postal Survey Results	.....	239
Appendix B: Focus Group Questions	.....	244
Appendix C: Student's Questionnaire	.....	247
Appendix D: Teacher's Questionnaire	.....	260
Appendix E: Consent Form: Focus Group Interviews & Schedule	.....	267
Appendix F: Consent Form: Pilot Testing Focus Group	.....	269
Appendix G: Consent Form: Student's Questionnaire	.....	270
Appendix H: Consent Form: Teacher's Questionnaire	.....	271

Appendix I:	Focus Group Interview Questions Following Data Analysis.....	272
Appendix J:	Female Focus Group Interview Questions Following Data Analysis.....	274
Appendix K:	Informal Discussion Questions with Physical Educators.....	276