Our children are growing up in a world considered vastly more dangerous than the one most of their parents faced. These increased risks include substance abuse, binge drinking, poor lifestyle choices, loss of values, poor school behaviour, crime and depression/suicide.

Fathers, [your children] face a world markedly different from the one you did growing up: it's less friendly, morally unmoored, and even outright dangerous

Meg Meeker, Adolescent Health Physician

Because there is overwhelming evidence from hundreds of research studies that the most powerful untapped factor to prevent these problems is input from/role modelling by a strong and appropriate father figure, we have run the multi award-winning Fathering Project from The University of Western Australia with the goal of influencing fathers and other father figures Australia-wide. This has included 6 books on fathering – the best-sellers Fathering from the Fast Lane, Daughters and their Dads and The Blue Book of Tips for Fathers and Father Figures and 3 recent e-books on the subject.

These issues have a variety of impacts, including on their school behavior and performance. It is statistically shown that a strong and appropriate father figure has an effect on a child's

- Education, curiosity and love of learning
- Attitude to other kids, eg. Bullying
- Attitude the schoolteachers and buildings

This effect on not only on that dad’s children, but on other kids as he functions in his role as a father figure.

All schools should encourage and develop strong father figures in their schools. The Fathering Project is well placed to achieve this, by seminars, development of Champion Dads groups, use of DVDs, regular emails to dads etc. – its high quality team, University based structure and strong track record are the main reasons it has been so successful. Any school that engages with this work can expect an improvement in children’s education, attitude to other kids and attitude to teachers.

The Fathering Project, a not-for-profit organization, has produced a number of fathering DVDs and their program, aimed at fathers via schools, workplaces and community groups throughout Australia, has already been widely used in a number of states and has been hugely successful. Their aim is to influence fathers in every school in Australia.

I personally have benefitted from The Fathering Project and I am absolutely convinced, and have been since it started well over 10 years ago, that this is something Australian dads need. Their kids need it, and because these kids are literally our country’s future, the country needs it as well.

Hon John Anderson AO, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia
The Fathering Project is now also developing programs to help with fly-in, fly-out (‘FIFO’) workers, aboriginal father figures, childhood obesity, healthy lifestyle, education and women as leaders.

The Fathering Project team have spoken on this subject to >15,000 people in live audiences throughout Australia and in 6 different countries. The Fathering Project Director, Dr Bruce Robinson, has been publicly acknowledged as ‘the Fred Hollows of fathering in Australia’ by leading parenting author Steve Biddulph and ‘Australia’s foremost author on fathering’ by Warwick Marsh of the Australian Fatherhood Foundation. Bruce’s books have been described as ‘a reminder of precious relationships’ (Fiona Stanley & Justin Langer), ‘brilliant, profound and touching’ (Warwick Marsh), ‘a wealth of thoughtful observations’ (Michael Chaney and Kim Beazley), ‘something that all fathers should read’ (Tim Costello and Dennis Lillee), ‘powerful and practical’ (Daniel Petre), ‘insightful’ (Dennis Cometti), ‘full of clever questions’ (Geraldine Doogue) and ‘what Australian really needs’ (Hon John Howard).

This University based project has been widely accepted by the whole community, including mothers. It has been predicted to do more to help ensure a healthy future for our young people than any other existing program.

This fathering DVD gives very simple and very important advice that is useful for all fathers. If they follow this advice it should make a big impact on the health and wellbeing of Australian children. It’s very well done. Excellent.

**Professor Peter le Souef, Professor of Paediatrics, Princess Margaret Hospital for Children**

One reason The Fathering Project is considered to be one of the most powerful health promotion strategies in Australia today is because it is based entirely on research and best-practice. Another is that it ‘turns off the tap rather than mopping up the water’ i.e. it prevents substance abuse, reducing the need for drug addiction recovery clinics. This approach has been described as akin to ‘inventing a polio vaccine instead of inventing a better iron lung’.

**Fathering Project Websites**
- [www.thefatheringproject.org](http://www.thefatheringproject.org) – main site of The Fathering Project, UWA, which BR directs.
- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=gaLvi4PlEtQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gaLvi4PlEtQ) - BR intro to The Fathering Project
- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJF3Q4D1RVw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJF3Q4D1RVw) – personal testimony from Luke
- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztxtA28xG4w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztxtA28xG4w) – clip from one of the main Fathering Project fathering videos

To contact The Fathering Project for resources, seminar4s, DVDs or to facilitate the formation of a Champion Dads group at your school, workplace or community group, email [enquiries@thefatheringproject.org](mailto:enquiries@thefatheringproject.org)