

Tim - Enabling My Family To Be Happy & Healthy

"I feel threatened by the implications of talking about gender equity as it implies that the way I was brought up and the way I am bringing up my kids was/is wrong"

Tim's Story

I am a father of two boys and a girl and I live in a small country town with my wife. I work full time in a work place which has many more women than men and my wife now works three days a week after having a year at home after the birth of the kids.

Raising healthy, happy children is the most important thing to me and most of my time when not at work is spent with the family. Sport and spending time in the outdoors camping and exploring is an important part of family life. I also go to footy training one night a week and during winter I play with a local team on the weekends. Being the main bread winner and doing the things that interest me at home and sports wise is just how I was brought up and I feel satisfied with how I live life and with my family and work situation.

Attitudes and Behaviours

It's important for me to parent equally with my wife, sharing household chores and responsibilities. There are things that I prefer to do such as mowing lawns and the other things that need doing outside because I've been doing them a long time and I'm confident doing those jobs. There is nothing indoors that I can't and won't do but I don't feel as confident doing things such as ironing as I haven't had as much practice with them as my wife has. I work full time and my wife works part time because I've had the greater earning capacity and she enjoys being the main carer of the children.

I've definitely been influenced by the way I have been brought up. My Dad took us to sporting activities and my Mum did more of the caring roles in the family, and that's how our family does things as well.

I am starting to hear more about gender equity and gender equality at work and we are having a few conversations about it home. I'm not really sure about what it really means for us though and at times I have the sense that there is criticism about the way I've been brought up. I had a great upbringing and feel as though our family is happy and secure so I get a bit defensive about it all.

Needs & Expectations

I need help in understanding more about gender equality and what it means for our family. I want to make sure that everyone in our family gets the same opportunities regardless of their gender. Even though I don't feel as we are doing anything wrong, I don't want to be closed off to talking about gender equality and looking at things differently.

I need conversations about gender equality to be in supportive language so I don't get defensive and feel invited into the conversation and safe to have an open discussion.

I need to be a good role model for my children and other people who might be influenced by me at home, socially and at work by being open to being educated about important matters like this.

