

23 August 2011

To whom it may concern

Adrienne and Gary Dalton and Te Whangai Trust

I have much pleasure in providing this reference for Gary and Adrienne as they are a leading light in our community.

I have been associated with Adrienne for the past 12 years in her capacity as a Judicial Justice of the Peace at the Thames District Court.

Through my work I am involved with people who have fallen through the cracks in our society. These people in many cases have numerous addictions and mental health issues which stand out as factors in their offending and non acceptance by many parts of our society.

Adrienne and her team have stepped in to provide a means of changing lifestyles and habits for these people for whom there appears to be little hope in our society.

In addition to creating work ethics and social values the Trust members go the extra mile in helping people gain self esteem and gain employment.

I see many examples of the changes that are happening in some peoples lives and they recognise how these have come about.

The self respect and mana gained from being involved in this project is huge when you look at the people who have never achieved at school or held down a job and now realise they are a worthwhile part of society and have the ability to learn. This is attributable to Adrienne and the input of her team.

I am informed that the Trust has now been responsible for 140 people going out from their training at Te Whangai and being employed in the community. Several of these people have been unemployed for up to 15 years or never held a job.

In addition to this twenty two young people have been inspired enough to return to tertiary education which hopefully will lead to a lifelong change in attitude and values. When you add another 51 young people undertaking NZQA qualifications the results become life changing for a large number of people who have been dismissed by society.

These people have been given an opportunity to improve their lives and as a result can now realise their own potential.

Te Whangai Trust has become widely known and police now seek their assistance with young offenders. Without the involvement of the Trust these young people would not have moved forward with their lives and would still be entirely dependant on state handouts.

In truly believe the Te Whangai Trust is doing a marvellous job which not many people in society would be able to handle personally. We as a country owe them a huge debt of gratitude for all the work they continue to do in dealing with people that the education system and other state assistance organisations have failed to make any changes in their lives. Their results are testament of their dedication and heart for the lost in our society.



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