

HER HONOUR JUDGE LISA TREMEWAN

3 November 2009

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Re: Application for funding by 'The Right Track' (Te Ara Tutuki Pai) Programme

All four resident judges at the Waitakere District Court respectfully write this letter endorsing an application for funding by the Right Track Programme, for your consideration.

We know that John Finch, the programme director, will have provided you with an abundance of information as to what the Programme entails, so we will not trouble you to read a further summary of it but rather will restrict our comments as to why you might please consider supporting the programme.

As judges sitting in the Waitakere District Court on a daily basis we are very frustrated by the repeat offending we see. In terms of traffic offending, often this is committed by young recidivists. They pose a very real and significant risk to the lives of other road users, with all of the potentially devastating flow on effects that this has. Research and statistics demonstrate that punishment alone does not necessarily achieve what is desired in encouraging such offenders to change their behaviours. One cannot put “wise heads” on “young shoulders” however requiring young offenders to complete the Right Track programme has proved to be the next best thing.

We heard about the programme a couple of years ago and some limited funding was able to be secured to enable the programme to be run through our court for approximately one year. This has made such a huge impact. Indeed, we judges have been able to personally witness the enormous changes made among those referred. We believe in the programme so wholeheartedly that we endeavour to attend some sessions ourselves where possible. It is satisfying for us to see, first hand, the impact that the programme has.

We would invite you to read the feedback given by participants as to the impact that the programme has had on them – it is very telling and speaks amply of the programme’s success.

To conclude, we judges know that this programme is successful and that it changes lives. Our biggest dilemma is how we can keep the programme running as we always have suitable offenders who really need to go onto such a programme. We could constantly fill the programme with suitable offenders from our Youth Court and young adults from the

District Court. These are young people who, in our assessment, are very likely to carry on their dangerous, risky driving patterns unless there is some effective intervention.

We cannot speak too highly of what this Programme has to offer. We would ask that the this extremely worthwhile initiative with its enormous benefits to the community as a result is supported by your initiative.

Please advise if we can assist with any further information or input.

Yours faithfully

Lisa Tremewan
Youth & District Court Judge



Heemi Taumaunu
Youth & District Court Judge

David Mather
Family & District Court Judge



Phil Recordon
Youth & District Court Judge