



HIS HONOUR JUDGE A J FITZGERALD
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

29 October 2009

To Whom It May Concern

Re: "The Right Track" programme

I am one of the judges responsible for the Auckland Youth Court and write this letter in support of the "The Right Track" programme which has a proven track record of promoting positive change in young people's behaviour and reducing the risk of them re-offending.

When the programme ran in Auckland during 2008 I was actively involved and able to see first hand the very effective way it brought home to participant's the importance of making good choices and the consequences of making bad ones.

Although the theme and focus of the programme is on driving-related safety, the lessons it teaches go well beyond that by promoting attitudes that are relevant to being good and responsible members of the community. The improvement in self-confidence and respectful attitudes towards others over the course of the programme were other noticeable benefits.

I was very disappointed when funding for the programme in Auckland stopped last year and have continued to explore options to see it re-established here. I have also been following the programme's progress in West Auckland where it continues to go from strength to strength.

There are obvious benefits to the community in having programmes for young people that really can make a positive difference in their lives and reduce the risk of them making poor choices. In my experience, this is a programme that works well in those ways.

The energy and vision that John and Helen Finch bring to the programme are very impressive and I am pleased to be able to provide this letter in support of their ongoing attempts to secure funding for the programme to resume in Auckland.

A J FitzGerald
District, Youth and Family Court Judge