



24th January 2024

Glenys Woolcock
President
Horse Whispering Youth Program
Via email: glenys@hwyp.com.au

RE: Testimony in support of Horse Whispering Youth Program

I welcome the opportunity to provide this testimony to Horse Whispering Youth Program (HWYP) in support of their future grant applications and fundraising endeavours.

I support HWYP's unique approach to addressing the diverse needs of youth & families. Their equine-assisted programs enhance the personal growth, wellbeing, and overall development of participants in a safe, natural, and outdoor environment.

Arcadia College is a special assistance school focused on supporting young people who have disengaged from mainstream schooling. The complex backgrounds of our young people are always at the forefront of our minds when implementing programs that support the holistic wellbeing of each student. I have the privilege of implementing and facilitating several wellbeing intervention programs to support the varying needs of our students. Some of the risk factors our students are facing include, disability, trauma, mental health concerns, anti-social/criminal behaviour and disengaging from education. The school environment and access to wellbeing intervention is a vital protective factor for our young people. The Horse Whispering Youth Program proved to be a great success for our students in 2023. Their overall confidence and ability to communicate positively with others grew dramatically over the course of the program. The students demonstrated a much-improved view of themselves and their abilities by the end of the program and were able to recognise their achievements.

In my/our experience, the 10-week early intervention program has proven highly capable in quickly engaging troubled youth, diverting them away from anti-social/ criminal behaviour, helping them to engage positively with others and build self-confidence and resilience. The program also works well with existing mental health services for youth and individuals requiring additional support from the community.

Yours sincerely,

Jamie-lee Jankovic
Arcadia College