

Julie Schlabach
Youth Support Services
jschlabach@wmq.org.au
0409695756

15.01.24

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

Re: Testimony in support of Horse Whispering Youth Program

I am pleased to provide a testimony to the Horse Whispering Youth Program (HWYP) in support of its continued ability to be delivered to young people, through grants, fundraising avenues, and government funding options in the future.

I am a Case Manager from Youth Support Services, which is a community base program that supports at-risk young people to overcome barriers to achieve their goals. Having the HWYP as an option for young people has been a huge advantage to the work that we do. The program supports many facets of what we are aiming to achieve, including developing identity, building self-confidence, self-esteem, and resilience, increasing social skills and opportunities for young people to interact with others in a supportive environment whilst outside in nature. Many of our clients love animals and are averse to humans, so this program is a great way to engage young people to work on developing these much-needed skills with intrinsic motivation, joy & fun.

The program appeals to young people when other more traditional avenues of support are not enticing. The program has thus been able to support them to develop skills that would otherwise not have been achieved. I have had the opportunity to support my clients to attend the program, which has had a remarkable impact on their lives. Having this funded program has enabled young people to access that would have ordinarily been excluded due to financial barriers and its continued existence is invaluable to the community.

The program has been extremely well organized, has provided fantastic, regular communications to all stakeholders, with friendly and competent staff who have truly made a difference to the lives of the young people who have had the opportunity to take part in this program. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in making this program available to at-risk young people on the Gold Coast and express my sincere hope that it will continue to be available to those who need it most in our community.

Kind regards



Julie Schlabach
Case Manager - Youth Support Services
Wesley Mission QLD.
208 Highfield Drive, Robina, QLD.