

30/08/2022

To whom it may concern

I would like to offer an endorsement of the work and support provided by Christina Barruel and the Peace Foundation team.

ACG Strathallan, opened in 2001 is a co-educational private school based in South Auckland. The college part of the school caters for Year 7 – 13.

In 2019, I approached Christina to initiate a Peer Mediator service within our school. There was a clear need to provide this level of support and our students were keen to explore potential leadership opportunities. At this stage there were limited leadership roles leading towards more senior student responsibilities. There were also numerous, complex dynamics involving our junior cohort and their integration to a college environment.

Christina trained the first set of Peer Mediators in February 2020. The results were immediately transformational. The skills and techniques adopted through the training enabled them to manage situations and navigate through minor issues prior to them becoming more significant. As they experienced more scenarios, they developed more refined communication and response strategies. Currently, most of that initial team are now our senior prefects and head students.

We are now in our third year of running a Peer Mediator program and it has become a very positive feature that has helped shape the growing culture of the school. It is entirely evident that the skills and interactions experienced by the students leads them directly to undertaking more senior responsibility in subsequent years.

Through reflection and feedback those involved in applications for senior roles always lean on their Peer Mediator experience when providing examples to prove their commitment or skillset.

Christina remains a very supportive influence and we welcome her back every year to provide invaluable new training to our upcoming cohorts and look forward to this remaining in place long into the future.

Your faithfully



Matt Humber

Curriculum Leader/Dean/Peer Mediator co-ordinator

Monday 29th August, 2022

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to support the New Zealand Peace Foundation's application for funding for the Leadership Through Peer Mediation (LtPM) program.

Hobsonville Point Secondary School has delivered the LtPM program since we opened for students in 2004. We have grown the program from training a group of Year 9 Peace Ambassadors in 2004 to a team of Peer Mediators who support students to resolve minor conflicts using the peer mediation process.

Students in the LtPM team at HPSS lead a number of awareness raising conflict related campaigns including Pink Shirt Day, Gumboot Day and Youth Peace Week throughout the year too.

The students who are part of the LtPM program have benefited significantly from the skills they have learnt through the Peace Foundation trainings and put these into practice on a daily basis. I have no doubt that they will continue to use these skills to navigate conflict and challenging situations when they leave school.

It has been a pleasure to have the Peer Mediation program here at HPSS and I thoroughly support any additional funding for this service.

Kind regards,



Victoria Marsden | Head of Student Services

Hobsonville Point Secondary School

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Web: www.hpss.school.nz



22 September 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Mt Albert Grammar School has been actively part of the Leadership through Peer Mediation (LtPM) Programme since 2015. The Peace Foundation facilitates an outstanding training day for our Peer Mediators each year. Peer Mediators play an important part in the leadership opportunities in the school by giving service to others through peer mediation.

The training allows students to develop positive communication skills around listening, being non-judgemental, respecting others' opinions and beliefs, as well as empowering individuals to make positive choices around building successful relationships. Not only do the Peer Mediators model this through mediations but they are also important skills that they take with them when they leave school and into any work place, further education and indeed their own personal relationships.

Becoming a Peer Mediator at Mount Albert Grammar School is seen as a meaningful and valuable leadership opportunity. Our numbers increase every year and the number of mediations that Peer Mediators facilitate has also increased. This has happened as a result of the school community seeing the value of managing conflict in positive ways and seeing real results in changing the ways we communicate with each other. I cannot stress how important this programme is in schools and the immediate value it holds on an individual level as well as on a collective level, building safer, more positive school communities and beyond.

LtPM ties in directly with the five key competencies of the NZ Curriculum: thinking, language, managing self, relating to others and participating and contributing. This is why LtPM programme should become an integral part of the School's Health curriculum and that support be given to fund this invaluable programme in schools.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Judd'.

Matt Judd (he/him) | Lead Counsellor | MNZAC
mjudd@mags.school.nz

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5 September 2022

To Whom It May Concern

Mt Roskill Grammar School (MRGS) is a large multi-cultural school with 1800 students and over 70 different cultures. In 1994, it was the first Secondary school in New Zealand to establish a Peer Mediation Service in partnership with the Peace Foundation. This comprehensive service now has 200 trained Peer Mediators, with over 80 of them being advanced Mediators.

The role of the Peer Mediator is to support students to resolve conflict in a constructive way. They are Ambassadors of Social Justice, promoting the important qualities for kindness, fairness and respect for all. They stand up against bullying behaviour and support students to get help when needed.

Every year the Peace Foundation provides the Leadership through Peer Mediation (LtPM) training at Mt Roskill Grammar for up to 100 new student Mediators and provides advanced training for a further 40 Mediators.

The Peace Foundation provides relevant, culturally responsive, engaging training activities and have created some unique resources that will be available next year.

This year MRGS had the privilege to be involved in the making of the new Peace Foundation Mediation training video which will be used for the future training of Peer Mediators.

Research shows that the best way to tackle bullying in schools is to support students themselves to take the lead in this area. This student owned and student driven programme has shown to be effective in reducing bullying behaviour within the school.

The benefits of this LtPM training are multi-layered for MRGS. It is a major anti-violence programme that teaches young people positive conflict resolution skills as well as providing opportunities for feeling a sense of belonging and connection to one another. It is resilience-building as well as confidence-building for all students involved.

The LtPM programme is congruent and reinforcing of the all the values and key competencies of the NZ Curriculum. It fits especially with the key competencies of 'relating to others, managing self and participating and contributing'. It also supports all the values of diversity, 'equity community and participation, ecological sustainability, integrity and respect'.

Independent research on "Leadership through Peer Mediation" by Dr Helene Connor & Leo Buccahan have found overwhelming positive effects of the programme on students, teachers and school environments.

The research found that the majority of the respondents felt LtPM was of benefit to the culture of the school. LtPM was viewed as being helpful in improving relationships within the student population and appeared to reduce bullying, creating a safer environment.

Anecdotal evidence has shown that the life-long skills students learn through the LtPM raining flow on to the Mt Roskill community to families and their future education and work places. I

believe that this programme is a major intervention in achieving greater peace, well-being and safety for the youth in our Puketapapa community.

The following are some examples of Mediator student voices:

- *"Being a mediator makes me feel like I am part of a huge family."*
- *"I have grown into a much more thoughtful person and can now relate and cope with everyday situations better. I believe I look out for the students more and can use my skills to help others. I can resolve my conflicts in a much more mature way. This process has helped me gain skills that I can use in the future and has given me skills to create better relationships with bosses, teachers, etc."*
- *"It has boosted my confidence about myself and has given me comfort that there are students who are willing to stop bullying. It has made me closer with my friends and now we can resolve our own problems without it getting out of hand."*
- *"I love getting together with people who are as passionate for peace as I am, and events such as peace week are so great to get involved in."*
- *"It has strengthened my sense of belonging to the school and I am now more committed to everything I undertake. It has motivated me to strive for excellence and have a positive attitude."*
- *"I am a changed person. I'm wiser and more confident. I'm contributing more to the school now so I definitely feel like I belong more."*
- *"I feel that MRGS would not be the safe school it is today if it wasn't for the mediations offered at our school."*
- *"Now I'm a Mediator, I don't get into physical fights because I don't want to lose my badge. I take a deep breath, walk away and try and be a good role model."*

I appreciate all the support that the Peace Foundation provides us at MRGS and fully endorse their application for funding.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ngā manaakitanga



Donna Hourigan-Johnston (MA Hons)

School Counsellor & Mediation Coordinator

Monday- Wednesday

Assistant Head of Guidance Department

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**MOUNT ROSKILL
GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

SOUTHLAND GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL



16 September 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing in support of the Peace Foundation in its development of resources for Peer Mediation in schools.

We have had the benefit of training sessions and the use of some amazing resources. 30 students in our school across years 11-13 are currently being trained as peer mediators. Going forward we see this programme as a long term and integral part of our pastoral support work. As a year 7-13 school we use a combination of resources from both the Cool Schools Programme and from the Leadership through Peer Mediation Programme.

The students are also benefitting from learning the important life skill of effective communication whilst developing their own leadership qualities.

We fully intend to continue with this programme. In 2023 we will be training new students alongside those that are already training. It is our idea to embed Peer Mediation throughout the school.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yvonne Browning".

Yvonne Browning
Principal

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rowana McNaught".

Rowana McNaught
Assistant Principal

TAUPO-NUI-A-TIA COLLEGE



20 September 2022

To Whom it may concern

Re - Letter of Support for the Leadership through Peer Mediation Programme (LtPM)

Taupo-nui-a-Tia College has had the benefit of support from Peace Education - Peace Foundation in the delivery of training and implementation of the programme Leadership through Peer Mediation since 2017. As a College we were looking at initiatives to best support student well-being - specifically supporting concepts of manaakitanga (care and concern), whanaungatanga (relationship), ako and mahi tahi (working together). A consistent approach to the development and implementation of this training at Nui over the past five years has built a significant presence of student leaders in the College. These students promote fairness and respect for all members of the school community. The students role model being 'upstanders' watching out for harassment and bullying and help students to get the support they may need

At Taupo-nui-a-Tia College we have found the Leadership through Peer Mediation programme has been valuable in supporting the development of a School wide programme in Wellbeing. The students trained by the Peace Foundation in the LtPM learn and develop skills which place them in the forefront of actively being able to promote student well-being. This together with the Colleges Cornerstone Values which underpin all our actions and ensures student voice is a powerful force in the ongoing development and systems response to well-being issues.

The Leadership through Peer Mediation programme is a valued part of the Taupo-nui-a-Tia Colleges response to the vital issue of student well-being in schools.

Yours faithfully

Hilary MacRae
Guidance Counsellor
BSocSc, GradDipT, GradDipCouns(Sup), MCouns(Hons). MNZAC

30/08/2022

To the Ministry of Health

I would like to offer an endorsement of the work and support provided by Christina Barruel and the Peace Foundation team.

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