

Letter in Support of Operation Hard Yakka

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for the Operation Hard Yakka Military Style Training Camps.

Bob Davis is ex military and facilitates camps for disengaged youth, teens with drug and alcohol problems, homeless teens and teens who have committed criminal offences. Bob has been running these camps for many years and has changed so many lives in our community with next to no funding or help from the government.

Bob and his team are now running it under a fee for service set up however unless parents or Job Services Australia Providers pay to help these children and teens they are unable to receive the help, support and encouragement to not only change their lives but become a valued member of the community.

The Wide Bay Burnett is now known as an Unemployment Haven as mentioned on the Today Tonight Report which aired on the 10th of April 2012 by reporter Adam Marshall. It is cheap to live however there is no employment for these teens and there are a huge number of families who are generationally unemployed. How will these teens and children ever learn that generational unemployment is not what they have to settle for? They can be more and do more with their lives.

Bob Davis is the man to make this happen. He is compassionate, caring, motivated and driven to change people's lives for the better. Bob does not believe that anybody is a waste of time or is not worth helping. To lower the crime rate we need to train and employ these teens – keeping them busy therefore taking the time to care about them as individuals. This will in turn help them to care about themselves and the people around them. I have spent many years working with disengaged youth and the unemployed and was asked to work with freshly released teens and criminal offenders once released in the Logan Region. It was an Initiative of the Logan City Council. I also spent seven years working in Woodridge and have seen things that give you nightmares. The region that is the Fraser Coast gives me flash backs to those times as we have a serious unemployment problem and with that comes drugs, crime and disrespect.

Without projects like Operation Hard Yakka who have skilled, caring and driven people to help the wider community buy thinking outside of the box – what will happen to them?

Only if you could see what Bob has been doing for many, many years, and I invite whoever may be reading this letter to meet with Bob and his team to see the amazing work he is doing.

Please feel free to contact me at any stage for a verbal reference in regards to Operation Hard Yakka.

Kind Regards

Kate Mudge

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