



Oz Adventures

"Training & Development"

Wandiny RAPASS

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corp



OPERATION "HARD YAKKA"

Military Style Youth Training Program

Support Letter

27 April 2012

To whom it may concern,

It is with great enthusiasm and without reservation that I, Leanne Rostedt support **Operation "Hard Yakka"**, which has its location at the Susan River Homestead Adventure Resort, Fraser Coast.

As a teacher in both primary and secondary school for the past 25 years I have seen the students who 'fall through the cracks' of the education system. Young people who are truant from school with few consequences and those who have problems with the law and because of their age seem untouchable as to consequences. Bob Davis's "Hard Yakka" program instils respect, attitude, goal setting, self-control, self-discipline and trust; values and beliefs which seem to be missing from these at risk youth and children. We need more programs like this one to 'catch' students before they choose a life of petty crime, misdemeanours and fail at school.

I see this as one type of preventative programming which can protect our children's safety and well-being and prepare them to be contributing citizens, instead of being a financial, social and emotional cost to the community and society. Locally in our area one just has to look at the statistics of theft and break-ins to establish the main group of offenders are young people, not enrolled or successful at school, who are often homeless or choosing to live in group situations of like-minded youth. Since the system has NOT been working for these people we need to try something different. I believe programs such as "Hard Yakka" offer that difference and play a major part to the solution of fixing the obvious catastrophes which our young people find themselves in today. I whole heartedly support this program and would urge authorities, charities, councils and governments to get behind Bob Davis and back up with financial support, this program. We could so easily be a nation-wide leader in this area of social reform and leadership.

Yours truly,

Mrs Leanne J. Rostedt
Dip.T, B.Ed, JP (Qual)
Teacher and Mother of 5 sons