

Letter of Support for  
Friendship House / Huntly West Hub



15<sup>th</sup> September 2021

To whom it may concern

The Huntly Community Board is very aware of the fantastic work that Friendship House (FH) and the Huntly West Hub (HWH) undertake. There are a number of excellent areas in which these organisations make a positive difference in Huntly, including:

- **Arts.** Huntly being both a small town and low socio-economic area, does not have opportunities for locals to explore the arts and artistic expression that those living in other areas may have. However FH and HWH give these opportunities to the public, by facilitating and organising a whole raft of arts related workshops and activities. These are aimed across the board from very young to elderly, and include a very large range of artist expressions from the more traditional to the more eclectic. Thus locals are able to experience the artist process. This has a whole host of benefits to the community. From an individual level there is strong evidence that artistic expression results in positive mental health outcomes to positive outcomes for the whole town with art installations in main street.
- **Elderly.** Changes in our society over the decades have resulted in elderly becoming at risk of neglect. This is because family often move away from their parents for employment, the fast pace of life has resulted in decreasing membership in not for profits that provide social connections (eg churches, rotary etc). Thus elderly can be at risk of losing social connections which has detrimental effects on their mental and physical health. We are impressed by how FH and HWH incorporate elderly into their programs and activities.
- **At the coal face.** Huntly clearly has challenges that flow out of intergenerational poverty. This cycle is very hard to break, as the skills and habits lost, are at times quite intangible. Thus having people working at the coal face, so to speak, making a difference in locals lives is really important. Most governmental agencies don't effectively partner with locals, and are often transient. Hence having someone long term in the community, who comes from that community, and able to build bridges with those around them, to make a positive impact is really important.

There are other areas such as support, connecting people to the appropriate service providers, helping with things such as CV's or computer skills and other such activities which are highly appreciated by the community. Very happy to discuss any of these things further upon request.

Sincerely

David Whyte  
Chair Huntly Community Board  
027 558 4448  
[davidwhyte.5th@gmail.com](mailto:davidwhyte.5th@gmail.com)