

30 May 2016

Kia Ora Nicole

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for Firearms Safety Specialists following the successful Whakatupato programme run with our Hapuu at Whangaehu Marae last month.

Having the opportunity to hold a training programme in the marae environment that is conducive to our people, run by competent and engaging facilitators that created an atmosphere cognisant of Maaori Learning styles are what I believe led to the programme being an absolute success.

Our hapuu have held a number of similar programmes and I believe that what was delivered through Whakatupato was second to none. Having facilitators who are culturally competent, knowledgeable in their content and acutely aware of the needs of their audience are imperative to the success of any programme being delivered to Maaori.

Whakatupato is more than just a gun licensing programme. It is programme that enables people who sometimes haven't had great educational experiences, to learn in an environment that is reflective of these realities. It challenges western paradigms of learning and it's reflected in the verbal feedback we have received from our whaanau participants.

Thank you again for the opportunity and already we have other marae and hapuu groups asking how to access this programme.

Ngaa mihi

Pahia Turia
Chairman
Te Ruunanga O Ngaa Wairiki-Ngaati Apa



taipak@xtra.co.nz