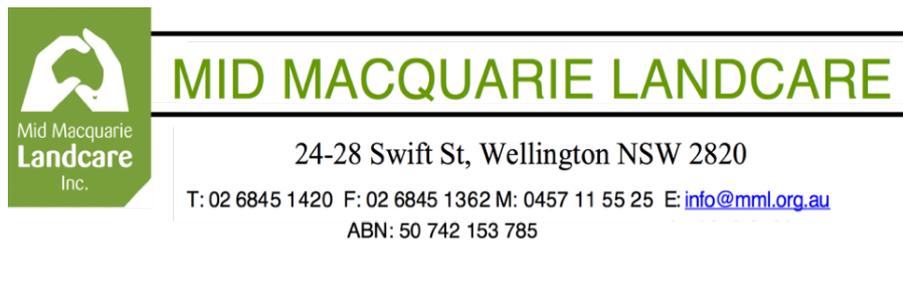


Landcare



To whom it may concern,

Wellington Information and Neighbourhood Services (WINS) is an amazing organisation and you feel that when you walk through the doors to find a buzzing community social hub.

I make this point because being relevant, helpful and enabling is the only way to find success when it comes to designing, facilitating and running community programs - without this spark, it's all just bureaucratic box-ticking.

As a journalist I've been involved in reporting on Landcare for more than two decades and for the past five years I've worked as Executive Officer and Local Landcare Coordinator for Landcare, as well as spending a few years serving as a member of Landcare NSW State Council, which oversees the groups across the state.

Landcare is all about the triple bottom line, economic and social as well as environmental, and having seen many agencies and organisations working in this space, WINS is amongst the cream of the crop because it gets amazing positive engagement and traction at a real grassroots level.

To couple an organisation like Food Ladder to WINS is literally a match made in heaven, because it will not only ensure that disadvantaged residents will have their financial and nutritional burdens much eased, but it will create a learning where they're taught how to "fish", and that gift is far greater than simply supplying handouts on a long-term basis.

I super-enthusiastically endorse WINS as a location for a Food Ladder pilot project. With research across the globe pointing ever more strongly to the links between poor diets and a myriad of health issues and disorders including anxiety, depression, behavioural dramas as well as physical health issues, this project could not come at a better time.

The thought of this pilot project empowering poor mothers to be able to feed their children healthy food in a sustainable way is beyond incredible, and is a gift that will keep on giving through new generations.

As an elected councillor on Dubbo Regional Council (DRC), I am also very well aware of a) the immense social disadvantage that exists in Wellington and b) just how crucial WINS is in providing incredibly cost-effective services that less nimble government agencies can't get close to.

As a journalist, I'm sure the positive media coverage from any pilot project at WINS would also be ongoing and powerful.

I encourage any decision makers to call me if more information is needed,

Regards,
John Ryan

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