

Judges' comments

Aotea College – Wellington - 2011

I absolutely support programmes that increase financial literacy and promote enterprise and entrepreneurial behaviour - the BusinessNZ Challenge programme at Aotea College does all these things. Our young people get direct practical experience in a collaborative and learning environment - which was clearly good fun as well!

I was particularly pleased to see that feedback I had offered from last year's programme had been picked up and acted upon - to move away from unrealistic dollar amounts and focus on the concepts instead. A great example of a learning organisation. Congratulations Young Enterprise Trust, and Aotea College for continuing to give its students this opportunity.

Hon Hekia Parata,

Minister of Women's Affairs | Minister for Ethnic Affairs |

Acting Minister of Energy and Resources

Associate Minister for ACC | Associate Minister of Energy and Resources | Associate Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector

Queens and Kings High Schools - Dunedin, May 2011

As a first time judge I was impressed with the range of ideas students proposed. Their creativity and enthusiasm was very encouraging and indeed refreshing. For such young students, often working in groups with students they didn't know, the groups showed good team work and a solid understanding of the core elements required to bring a product or service to market. The entrepreneurial spirit was certainly evident in the students I judged. The BusinessNZ Challenge is an excellent initiative that I hope more schools will become involved with.

Stephen Geddes,

Divisional Marketing Co-ordinator, School of Business, University of Otago.

Queens and Kings High Schools - Dunedin, May 2011

I was very privileged to be a judge for the BusinessNZ Challenge for Kings and Queens High Schools in Dunedin. The energy and enthusiasm of the young people was evident, together with some exceptional ideas presented extremely well. It was evident that the experience had opened up many of their eyes to the possibilities in the business world.

Will Martin | Business Advisory Manager Lawyer

Otago Southland Employers' Association Inc.

Ormiston Senior College, Flatbush, Auckland - 2011

The students at Ormiston Senior College did extremely well in completing the BusinessNZ Challenge.

I was very impressed with their ability to invent, plan and present a business idea within such a short time frame, while also maintaining high quality standards. A difficult contributing factor was that the challenge took place within the first few weeks of school. It was encouraging to see the way that students overcame this difficulty and worked well in their teams, each contributing towards a collective goal. Teamwork is important in any business and all students proved their ability to become part of a successful team. I also admired the ability to think big. Many of the product ideas would be conceptually difficult to create, however this is exactly what New Zealand needs - individuals who push the boundaries. The skills developed by each student during the challenge will be highly valuable into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to judge the competition, it was an enjoyable experience and I would be happy to help out again.

Regards,

Joshua Patience | Auckland, NZ

Ormiston Senior College, Flatbush, Auckland - 2011

I found the program a great way to put students in a real world situation and gain skills that they will be able to use in the workplace. The team work aspect was an important part of the success of this program, it taught students to look at their peers and understand each others' strengths. The chance to present their ideas to people in the industry is also a challenging and a rare opportunity for these students

Thanks for inviting me to be part of it

Daniel Siciliano

Regional Trainer

Noel Leeming Group