



187a Inlay Street, Eden NSW 2551

Phone: (02) 6496 4039 Fax: (02) 6448 9903

Thursday, 2nd February 2017

To whom it may concern;

Re: The House That Dan Built

I am writing in support of The House That Dan Built and their grant application. I have lived in Eden since 2008 and have been a part of the community since before that time. I have been a nurse at the closest hospital, which at the time was Bega District Hospital and more recently, South East Regional Hospital. I have also worked in the Eden Community Health Centre and now I work for Dr Thomas Henderson as his practice nurse at Access Medical. During this time, I have seen women of all ages, at all stages of life and health and believe that the community would benefit from the kind of discussion that The House That Dan Built are proposing. There is a high incidence of teen pregnancy in the Bega Valley as there are in many small rural and coastal communities. I believe that many young women are limited often by this, as I believe they do not always fully understand the choice they are making. I see many teens who are elated by becoming a mother, which is a great thing, however I believe that their identity then becomes inextricably linked with the ideal of "motherhood" which sometimes does not live up to expectation. Some exposure to different attitudes or opinions would be, in my opinion highly beneficial.

Through my profession I see much anxiety and depression in older women and feel that if these women had the opportunity to share their stories and ideas with the younger generation, through the proposed discussion by The House That Dan Built, this may be mutually advantageous to all women in the community.

I believe our community would relish the opportunity to be part of this project as it is seldom that women here are asked about their lives and I believe that story telling is an important part of the healing and growth process.

I believe that the city provides young women with a different view of life, which is less expressed and explored in regional and coastal areas and I believe that an exposure to that view would be constructive for women in this area.

Through their passion and creativity, the women from The House That Dan Built could instigate the empowerment of women in this area.

Thank you for your time,

Warm Regards,

Jo Graham (Endorsed Enrolled Nurse)