



PARKDALE SECONDARY COLLEGE

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6th December, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I have known Peter Keogh in a professional capacity within the Education system. In 2010, I was approached by our College Principal to create a new Year Nine program, which would address the growing needs of our College. This program would run each Wednesday and would address the elements of City, Country, Community and Self.

Peter's affiliation with the College was already strong (with his delivery of his unit of Self-Defence and Life Skills, with their Physical Education and Health programs) spanning almost a decade. I was able to call upon his expertise and willingness to collaborate.

Peter was integral in the development of our 'Rock and Water' program in the first year of our CONNECT Program at Parkdale Secondary College in 2011. Throughout the past six years, he has worked collaboratively with the Rock and Water teachers and myself (as the program leader) to further enhance our program.

Peter had been an active member of our program, running two sessions (with 50 students in every block of CONNECT throughout the year). Students at Parkdale Secondary College recognise Peter Keogh as a member of our community that can provide support that is separate to the teaching and well-being staff. He has built a strong and trusting relationship with the teachers at the college and the students witness this mutual respect in the way he acknowledges staff upon arrival at the College.

His sessions focus on personal safety, defence and anger management. Peter challenges students to think deeply about their own lives, relating to experiences, to date. He also empowers young adults to connect to their own thoughts and feelings, in direct relationship with their actions; recognising they choose their own behaviour and responses.

Further to Peter's involvement in our Rock and Water program, he has also been attending our Country Camp at Forest Edge in Neerim East for the past six years. He facilitates a moving seminar, which focuses on his life and his own personal story. The students have a deep respect and appreciation for the way he shares his story and is able to extend his message to another level, allowing other students to show empathy for Peter's life journey.

We, at Parkdale Secondary College, consider Peter Keogh as a pivotal member of our School Community and he would be an asset to all social contexts, especially working with the youth of Melbourne. He has an innate ability to reach into the souls of even the 'toughest' exteriors and impact on those who need him the most.

Please do not hesitate in contacting me with any further questions.

Kind Regards,

Brooke Douglas

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