



19 February 2015

Paul Fong
National Director
Youth Quest Trust
2501 Middle Road
Poukawa
Hastings 4178

Dear Paul

Re: Exceptional circumstances request under Business Viability 6.5 of the standards for approval

You have requested that the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) consider whether there are exceptional circumstances which would allow s9(2)(a) OIA to be employed with Youth Quest as a Team Leader despite his conviction history.

Section 396 of the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989 (CYP&F Act) provides for approval of an agency, by the Chief Executive, as a Child and Family Support Service. MSD uses standards to carry out approvals and assessments. Youth Quest has been assessed against the level 1 standards and approved to provide services in Kapiti. The Hawke's Bay branch has recently been assessed and approved against the level 1 standards.

The level 1 standards include Business Viability Standards and Programme Quality Standards. MSD's Business Viability 6.5 states that:

Unless there are exceptional circumstances, the organisation does not employ any person in a paid or voluntary capacity, including management committees, who has a conviction for crimes of violence against the person or dishonesty.

MSD is satisfied that an exemption should be granted given the significant life changes s9(2)(a) has made as evidenced by the training and education he has undertaken, the views from the organisations who have worked with him and the achievement he has made since being involved with Youth Quest. Character references endorse s9(2)(a) OIA humility, honesty, leadership skills, capability, loyalty, openness and willingness to change.

As such, I have formed the view that there are sufficient exceptional circumstances that justify the approval of s9(2)(a) as an employee with Youth Quest.

If you or s9(2)(a) would like to discuss the outcome of this exemption, or have any questions about this decision, please contact s9(2)(a) OIA, Regional Manager, Central within 15 working days of the date of this letter. Her phone number is s9(2)(a) OIA and email is s9(2)(a) OIA.

Yours Sincerely

s9(2)(a) OIA

Director MSD Approvals

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT