

## Outdoor Education Value Proposition

COVID19 has dealt our sector a substantial blow. Our organisations have been part of the fabric of shaping our nation for generations. The outdoor environment in which we operate offers a unique opportunity to facilitate impactful change. We have a legacy of developing great leaders, improving mental and physical health, and collectively we have positively impacted thousands in our communities over many generations. **However, this is now significantly at risk.**

It has long been recognised that the combination of being in the outdoor environment, experiencing a facilitated activity and connecting with others, offers immense opportunity for growth and development of people. As we come into an era of uncertainty our services have much to offer in getting our nation back on its feet. It is critical that our industry is supported and therefore enabled to challenge, inspire and develop our young people, whanau, and communities.

The proven benefits of well facilitated outdoor and active recreation are well researched and extensive. They include:

- improving physical and mental health
- increasing wellbeing, knowledge and skills.
- improved educational performance and motivation
- improved social connections.
- increased participation in outdoor activity.
- enhanced environmental awareness and enjoyment of nature

The World Health Organisation's vision of "more active people for a healthier world" further demonstrates how essential our services are.

By risking the closure of our organisations, barriers to these benefits will be created and it will become insurmountable for the average kiwi to access. School camps and activities will become something of the past and we will see an increase in social ills, mental and physical unwellness. So, we **implore you to ensure that outdoor education/recreation providers are supported, are not forgotten in decision making, and are able to provide their services.**

We therefore require governmental consideration to the following:

- Further wage subsidy relief for our sector
- Ability to provide programming in Level 2 (see also our technical document - *Proposed protocols for established residential outdoor education providers*)
- Programme funding to fund / subsidise participants to attend camps, programmes and courses



Supported by:



### References:

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