

Student 2: High Merit

NZQA Intended for teacher use only

**An explanation the strengths and weaknesses of their personal involvement**

One strength of my social action was that I already had lots of contacts and people I knew who could assist with the action. For example Shelley Lynch, a Councillor at Waikato District Council, is a family friend. She helped me with an interview and also arranged our hearing at the WDC. This was a strength because it gave me a way in and saved me a lot of time. Shelley was the best contact for the social action as she helped me to get my voice heard at the hearing.

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Another strength was that I was able to take the social action to the Waikato District Council and appeal to them to put funding aside. This was a main part of the action. This was a strength because it meant that I was able to get my point across firmer than if I didn't speak at WDC. My speech and presentation at WDC's hearing showed who was affected and how these people would be benefitted, also what WDC could do to help. This also reinforced the strength of presenting the social action to the owners of GEHAC.

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In the presentation to WDC I used numbers of people that would be affected. A weakness of this was that one of the people that gave me numbers asked to remain anonymous. This was a weakness because it meant the validity and support of the evidence supplied for this was not demonstrated to its full potential. Although I had to follow ethical procedures of not using his name at WDC (as requested), it meant our case was not supported as strongly as it could be.

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Another weakness of conducting my social action was that Tegan (my partner doing the social action) and I were in separate classes. This was a weakness because it was very difficult to collect information and undergo interviews when we are separated and cannot work together easily. On numerous occasions Tegan and I could not arrange a suitable time to meet and organise/plan things. Also Tegan lives out of phone service so it was hard to get into contact with her straight away. This meant that there were limited times to organise things. If there was more time to fully immerse ourselves in the project we may have been able to get more interviews or even conducting a survey for the general public to input their opinion.

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**Anticipating the real and potential consequences of the social action(s).**

One real consequence of going to the Waikato District Council was gaining their support, however initially this was not financial support. I researched my social action and spoke with many residents and members of the council. Once I had written a report about the need for the hoist to be put into the main Huntly pool I sent it to the District Council. They invited me to come along and present my findings face to face. This allowed me the opportunity to convince them of the importance of the hoist and the reasons for it. I think this made the difference in that they could see what I was trying to do. They all supported my idea but said there would be no funding and I would have to find the money. This was a negative consequence because, although there was movement, they did not support the action financially. Funnily enough this negative consequence turned into another real consequence some time later when the council rang me and said they would fund the extra facilities.

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A potential consequence of doing my social action and successfully getting the council to introduce extra disabled facilities to GEHAC is that the lives of the people within the community could be changed. They would not be excluded from society and the community and, in terms of the residents at Kimihia Home and Hospital, they would have more possible activities to do rather than a select few. Colin Le Quesne a disabled man said "It would be so much easier to have something there for me to use instead of travelling into Te Rapa all the time."

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