

Hon Ruth Dyson

Celebrations for the Linwood Service Link

Speech notes for Ruth Dyson's 6 minute address at the opening of the Linwood Community Link on 2 May 2008

Rau rangatira maa,

tenei te mihi ki a koutou i runga i te kaupapa o te ra.

Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa.

[Distinguished guests, greetings to you gathered here for this purpose today. Greetings once, twice, three times to you all.]

Acknowledgements:

Thank you for inviting me to join you in these celebrations for the opening of the Linwood Community Link. I'm absolutely delighted to be here. What a warm and welcoming place. I am especially pleased to see such a splendid turnout from our valued community organisations. Together we can achieve so much more for New Zealanders and their families.

And that's what the Linwood Community Link is all about. It's about people. It's about people working together to achieve so much more than they can achieve alone. It's no accident we see this bright and carefully designed space filled with enthusiastic, committed and caring people who can wrap a range of useful services around our clients. On behalf of the government I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of you involved in bringing the Linwood Community Link to life.

Already there are good news stories to share. Everyone close to the Community Link speaks passionately about it and their enthusiasm is infectious. I know you have some stories to tell later, but I hope Cherie won't mind if I share just one with you. If any proof was needed that this new way of working is a very large leap in the right direction, this is it.

A local employer showed an interest in the Community Link, with Cherie inviting him in here virtually as soon as the paint was dry. By mid April, Cherie had linked not one...but five Linwood clients with the employer.

Today they have completed their third week in work. That's a great story in itself, but there's more. A further five clients are shortlisted with the same employer. What an outcome! Already the Linwood Community Link is making a difference; A valuable and far-reaching difference.

He Tangata, He Tangata, He Tangata. The stunning picture behind me says it all doesn't it? The People, The People, The People. When I look at that picture I see the future; A bright future for all New Zealanders.

And with our bright future sharply in focus, I would like to declare the Linwood Community Link officially open. Thank you.