

Alex's Story

Ex Kiwi Can Student



**GRAEME DINGLE
FOUNDATION**

Empowering kids to overcome life's obstacles
Whakamanawatia ngā tamariki kia eke panuku

As an ex-student who has had firsthand experience with the Kiwi Can programme during my intermediate school years, I can't speak more highly of this programme and its importance to shaping our youth and preparing them with fundamental life skills in their core years. The Kiwi Can programme helped us students develop skills in respect, resilience, integrity and participation through many fun and interactive team building exercises.

When I first started intermediate school, I was still a very shy and closed individual to my peers and lacked the confidence to speak up for not only myself but others too, I know that Kiwi Can played a big part in helping form greater confidence in myself so that I had the mana to speak up and be heard which is critical for our tamariki to understand and enhance these skills.

During my time participating in Kiwi Can, I found that alongside my own individual benefits that the programme extended its reach to the most challenged of tamariki in the school also. Kids started to get along better or even form lasting relationships with peers that they may never have had the chance to do so without the guidance of Kiwi Can. I believe this is due to the element of empathy being emphasized in the classes which teaches our youth in a real, concise way to treat others as they would like to be treated.

I was approached by one of the mentors at Kiwi Can at the time to join the school band and they helped me grow my confidence in performing in front of an audience, I wouldn't have tried this if

not for Kiwi Can's influence and I ended up joining the high school band shortly after.

This programme should be present in all of our intermediate schools to ensure the right mentors are in place to guide our tamariki to being the best versions of themselves as they head into their high school years.

Big thanks to Dan Allen-Gordon and the entire Kiwi Can team with a big shout out to Rowan (Kiwi Can) who helped me grow my confidence all those years ago.



We want every child to know: What they have inside is greater than any obstacle.