

find just how simple it was to set up www.liveelectrical.co.nz.

"It was really straightforward and user-friendly. I managed to set it up with all my existing logos.

"I've already had some good feedback from customers who have seen it."

The latest MYOB Business Monitor statistics show only 28 percent of Waikato's more than 49,500 small businesses have a company website, despite 80 percent of Kiwis using the internet to research products or services before they buy.

To date, the number of businesses that have created websites in Hamilton and surrounding towns, total 165. Top nations in the OECD have around 50 percent of their businesses online.

Research shows 35 percent of businesses that are online enjoy more customer engagement with 30 percent increasing revenue as a result of their online presence.

Westpac and MYOB have set a target of 10,000 businesses to get online over the next year.

Westpac Waikato business area manager, Grant Robson said it's an ambitious target but Westpac is committed to growing New Zealand and providing practical help to do so.

To assist, Westpac and MYOB have launched GetOnline.co.nz, where a website can be made in 15 minutes and an e-commerce

shops and services.

"We're thrilled to have helped

Keeping child abusers out of our organisations

By **RACHEL MCGUIRE**

A new resource has been launched to help organisations working with children to keep child abusers out.

If you are a member of a board of trustees for a school, church, youth group, sports or cultural club, or have children you want to be sure are safe, then this new resource will be of interest to you.

All organisations have a responsibility to do everything possible to keep children safe when in their care.

Yet child abusers and sexual offenders can, and do, find their way into positions where they are in contact with our children, often with disastrous consequences. Child abusers have been found in our schools, early childhood centres, sports groups, hospitals and numerous other organisations.

In the recent case of the convicted sexual offender Te Rito Henry Miki, he didn't just 'slip through the cracks' at one school, he created a web of deception that allowed him to get past the different

recruitment systems of several schools. This case was so serious it resulted in a ministerial inquiry.

Although this was an extreme case, the deception involved is not unusual. Child abusers want to gain access to our children, and are often skilled in presenting themselves in a way to gain this access.

Keeping organisations safe for children...

The single most effective point at which an organisation can minimise the possibility of abuse to children in its care, is in the appointment of new staff.

Safe Not Sorry is a handbook that provides a comprehensive and robust screening and recruiting process, which can reduce the chances of an abuser entering an organisation.

It provides information and advice that can ultimately ensure children are kept safe. It explains how these checks can be undertaken with the permission of the interviewee to ensure an exhaustive background assessment is carried

CHILD MATTERS - speaking up for children

Child Matters, New Zealand's specialist child abuse prevention organisation

out. Many organisations do police checks on people applying for positions. However,

most child abusers do not have criminal records so relying on a police check alone is not enough to ensure you employ safe staff.

It is an important, but very small, part of a much bigger process needed to ensure the people you employ are safe to be around children.

While no system is fool-proof, using Child Matters' Safe Not Sorry processes will make it extremely difficult for abusive adults to gain access to children.

The costs of not screening can be enormous, both for children and for an organisation, and can extend to huge financial loss and damaged reputa-

tion for the organisation.

Keeping children safe in organisations...

Parents need to be asking themselves the question "How safe are the adults I am entrusting with my children?"

With any organisation that you entrust your children to, you need to be able to feel confident that every measure has been taken to keep your children safe from potential abusers. How can you be sure your child is safe in the care of staff and volunteers at school, sport, church or even the hospital?

Start by asking these questions: A police check alone is not enough to screen potential child abusers during the recruitment process, so what steps have you taken to ensure your staff are safe to be with children?

Do you carry out the same level of checking with volunteers and relief staff?

What training in child protection and recognising child maltreatment is your staff required to undertake?

How do you ensure that parent helpers interact appropriately with children?

Can I see your organisation's child protection and recruitment policies?

If you're not satisfied with the answers, seek more information and encourage organisations you know to use the Safe Not Sorry book in their hiring process.

Safe Not Sorry can be purchased from www.childmatters.org.nz or contact Child Matters on 07 838 3370 for more information.

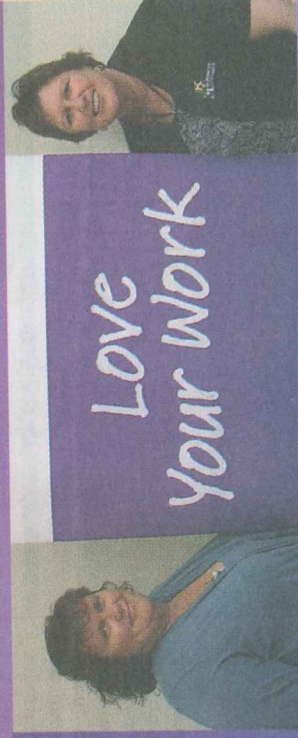
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