

19<sup>th</sup> April, 2011

To whom it may concern

**Re: John Parsons and S2E – Simulate to Educate**

There are a few times in your life when you come across something which you instantly recognize as truly remarkable – Simulate to Educate is one of those.

My background is in secondary teaching and nursing with 22 years experience in sexual health education and clinical services. The doctors and nurses at INP Medical Clinic see over 7,000 people per year, over 5,000 of them are under 22 years of age. In addition, I have a company which produces sexuality education resources for young people. Every day, our clinic sees young people whose lives have been forever altered, and not in a positive way, because of the decisions they have made.

My personal concern with young people and technology dates back 10 years to the first summer we saw cell phones with cameras embedded, and the call I received from a Policeman regarding a 16 year old woman on New Years Eve, unconscious with excess alcohol intake and the man who had pulled down her clothing and was taking photos of her genitals with his cell phone. Nothing has improved since that time, and in our work, we continue to try and clean up the mess left behind. Sadly, much of the damage is irreparable.

That is why I was so excited to see John Parsons and his team developing S2E – a real programme to teach children and young people the principles behind safe use of IT. I have seen this programme in action, have talked with local people who have used it, I have referred friends whose children have become internet victims, and can say that there is no-one I know or have heard of, who knows more about the issues, and how to deal with them constructively than John. The S2E programme is simply outstanding in its ability to gain the engagement of children and young people, and provide a simulated environment where they can safely learn how to keep themselves, their friends and their families safe.

John is highly respected in the Nelson community and the person to whom I refer for advice in dealing with issues of internet safety. I know, from personal experience, just how vital his sound guidance is for parents who discover that their 12 year old son has been contemplating suicide for six months because of what other students had posted about him on the internet. My friends' son is alive, well and now thriving at school as a

direct result of John's advice to his bewildered parents who did not have a clue what to do in that situation. I cannot speak highly enough of John's compassion, wisdom and knowledge in the area of communication technology, the impact it can have for the whole of a person's life.

S2E can save lives, it can ensure that employment opportunities are not lost because of internet postings, it can save schools and organisations from disrepute because the people who are a part of that organisation understand what ought and ought not to be posted, it can save families from the anguish of being attacked from those with malicious intent.

Almost every day, I open the news, shake my head, and think "that wouldn't have happened if they'd done an S2E programme".

I could say more, but I'm sure that you're a busy person. If there is anything else you would like to check with me – don't hesitate to contact me. I do need to state that I have absolutely no financial or vested interest in S2E – but I do have an abiding and increasing concern for the ease with which beautiful young lives can be utterly ruined with malicious, or even unthinking use of phones and the internet. Our young people deserve better.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Annette Milligan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Annette Milligan  
Director