

Dear Editor

We were horrified to read of the abuse that Albany Pak 'n Save received for turning away a charity collector (18th October). Hospice North Shore is well aware that Paul Blackwell and the team at Pak 'n Save support many charities on a regular basis. We are fortunate enough to have worked with the team at Albany Pak 'n Save for over 11 years, they have enthusiastically supported Hospice North Shore and have raised over \$100,000 for their community's local Hospice. They do the same for many other charities, giving time, goods, space and also raising funds for local and national charities throughout the year – but they can't do it for everyone, it just isn't possible! According to the Charities Commission, there are currently over 25,000 registered charities in New Zealand, of which a large percentage are based in Auckland - who have great causes. Can we really expect local businesses to support them all? To give to every charity that asks? That just isn't realistic and would not be fair on businesses, nor their customers.

While we at Hospice North Shore are passionate about supporting those living with a life limiting illness, we are realistic and know we cannot expect every business on the North Shore to support us – while it would be wonderful, we know that there are so many good causes out there and it is down to the individual and businesses who they choose to support.

Organisations who are so generous within their local community should not be made to feel guilty because they can't support everyone – they just don't have the capacity – nor should we expect them to.

To Paul and the amazing team at Albany Pak 'n Save, I would like to personally thank you for the wonderful support that you give to your local community – you have truly made a difference.

Carol Herbert
Funding Development Co-ordinator