

Moving on

Finding the right house...

Turi is now a consumer advocate. She's living in her own home and wants others to enjoy that freedom. She found that with some assistance she could find a place that was right for her.

After living in supported accommodation for a few years Turi moved into private accommodation, but the road to finding her own home has been bumpy. Turi had problems with the neighbours at the first house she moved into. The situation deteriorated so much that it was difficult to stay and she decided to move home again.

The next time Turi decided to go out on her own she asked Keys to help her find the right house – a peaceful, private rental in Hamilton, away from the students and noise. "Once we found the right place I was able to do most things on my own. I got the bond together and I got a truck to help me move."

Like many people Turi struggles with budgeting. But her house is a private rental and if she doesn't pay the bills she could be asked to move on, so this time Keys suggested she set up automatic payments for everything.

Turi would like to see more affordable long term accommodation and more housing co-ordinators as it would give her and others security. "Some people are living under the bridge or they go to the Henry Bennett Centre in winter. They annoy people in the streets because they have no money. They need houses; more support to work with WINZ, sorting out bonds and checking rent before they get into trouble. That would be good."

Being settled has also enabled Turi to go back to school. She's in her final year of completing a Level 4 Certificate in Mental Health. She'd like to see others with experience of mental illness getting involved in training. "Although it has taken a long time, I know my triggers now and can ask for help. We all have our ups and downs and have to manage them. Sitting doing nothing isn't good for me. Maybe people could do courses; Centre 401 (a consumer run service) and Progress to Health run all sorts of courses. Things to help with your life and work or things like screen-printing and music lessons for your pleasure."

