



Pursuing opportunities

Robyn Atkinson, quality manager

Robyn Atkinson has taken quite a pathway of her own to reach her current position as national quality manager for Pathways.

Before joining the Pathways team, Robyn was a community services manager for IHC in Whangarei. A shift to Auckland saw a job change and Robyn has never looked back. It was almost a decade ago she joined Pathways as team leader! Robyn went on to become the service leader for Auckland's residential, mobile, day programme and respite services, before moving into her current role. On top of this, she's also studying part-time towards a degree in social work!

"It's been a matter of taking up opportunities as they arise internally," says Robyn, "and I'm very grateful to Pathways for supporting me to do that. In many of the roles I had before my current one I had the chance to develop the skills that I now use everyday."

For example, Robyn was involved as a service leader in a Counties Manukau District Health Board forum on training needs and workforce development. "It was a sector-based initiative, as opposed to a service-orientated one, so I worked alongside representatives from other non-government organisations and from across the district health board. You learn a lot from these opportunities, which you can then apply in your own work."

Since moving to her current position in 2008, Robyn has continued to be involved in many different strands of work. Her day-to-day activities include looking at all Pathways' processes and procedures to ensure they are the best they can be, and taking part in both internal and external reviews.

Robyn says one of the great parts about her current role is being part of the national resource team. "We have a lot of fun," she says. But mostly it's Pathways' 'whatever it takes' approach that Robyn enjoys most. "Things are never still or stagnant, we're always changing the way we look at and approach things. While that can be a challenge, I find I thrive on it. I don't think I could now work for an organisation where they just do the same thing the same way, day after day."

Pathways People

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