



Witness to change

Denise Aylward
Taranaki/Whanganui regional manager

Since 1999 Denise Aylward has witnessed Pathways services in Taranaki and Whanganui take off and grow!

Denise has worked in health all her life. Originally training and working as an occupational therapist, before taking on a variety of liaison, management and consultancy roles.

When Denise joined Pathways in 1999 as the Taranaki regional manager it was only a small service. "I worked part-time while also developing the Taranaki Linkage service - the first primary mental health service in Taranaki." By 2007 Denise was with Pathways full time as the regional manager for both Taranaki and Whanganui – a role she continues today.

As regional manager Denise's work involves an interesting mix of improving service delivery, managing budgets and developing the services for both regions.

"Building relationships is an important part of what I do", says Denise. "I'm the chairperson of the mental health advisory group for the Taranaki District Health Board and on the board of the Peak Health Primary Health Organisation.

"I'm also involved in several sector-based groups looking at the future for mental health service delivery - no matter how well we're doing, there is always a need to ask, what do people want, how does our workforce reflect that and how will this change in the future?"

For Denise, the constantly changing health environment is an exciting aspect of her job. But Denise is always one to see the positive. "With change there is always the opportunity to do things differently," she says. "New services born out of partnerships are also on the rise. We now have mobile support workers from Pathways working within the DHB's alcohol and drug and older people services. The outcomes show the positive impact of this collaborative approach."

Denise goes on to explain all this couldn't be achieved without having such dedicated and passionate staff. "We're lucky enough to have the right people, in the right roles with the right attitudes, and that mixture makes a successful recipe."

Pathways People

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