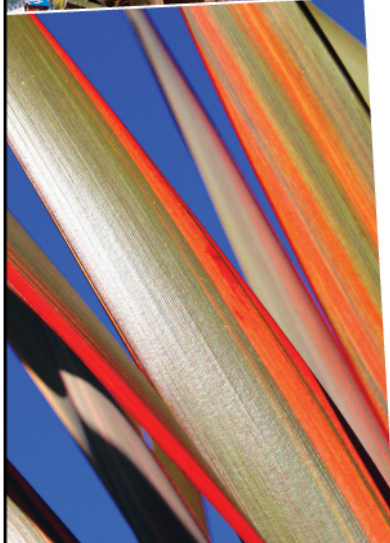


Working together moves mountains



Working together really does move mountains if Waikato Mental Health Employment Group's Gaining Employment Outcomes cross sector training day was anything to go by.

More than 100 mental health and employment sector representatives from all over the Waikato and beyond converged on Hamilton for the event in early August. The attendees included frontline staff from Work and Income, community mental health teams and NGO supported employment providers.

Job seeker experiences and integrated services were the hot topics, with Australian mental health and employment expert Dr Geoff Waghorn highlighting New Zealand's impressive lead in embracing evidence based practice.

Dr Waghorn highlighted the benefits of groups working together to provide a unified service. He suggests a more supportive and inclusive service is offered when sector representatives get to know each other and their roles better. "Not all responsibility for care should fall to the service user."

Attendees said the cross sector training offered a much needed opportunity for sector representatives to be in one room, discussing the common issues that many of them face on a daily basis.

Workwise Employment Agency Midland/North regional manager Tyron Pini says language was highlighted as a key element to understanding and bridging the gap between service providers. "There was plenty of discussion around the many differences in language used within the sector. We know it's beneficial for everyone to discuss and truly understand the language choices of other members in the sector."

Mr Pini says Dr Waghorn, who is senior scientist with Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research and senior lecturer in the School of Population Health, has made a valuable contribution to Waikato services with his ability to translate the research base into usable best practice techniques for frontline staff.

[Click here](#) to view Dr Geoff Waghorn's presentation – *Evidence-based Practice in Supported Employment for People with Experience of Mental Illness*.

Hope matters

