

*All names in the following story have been changed.*

## hope

**workwise**  
employment agency

Karl came to Workwise in May 2007.

Diagnosed with schizophrenia in 2002, Karl had faced many obstacles while growing up which led to him attempting suicide at a young age.

In his teenage years, Karl overcame many of these obstacles himself by focussing on his sport and love of hip hop. However the impact of schizophrenia on his life as a young adult led to him being hospitalised at Tiaho Mai, an acute inpatient mental health unit, for three months. As a further setback, whilst hospitalised, some of his close friends passed away.

Despite all this Karl had hope and the determination that he would overcome his illness and become part of the community again.

Karl had limited work experience when he came to Workwise in 2007 and no clear direction as to what sort of work he would like to do. With the support of his Workwise Employment Consultant he was accepted on the Pathways Peer Support Training Programme in June 2007. Pathways is a leading non-government provider of mental health and wellness solutions. This training was designed to help give Karl the confidence to share his experiences and the knowledge to help others with experience of mental illness to reach their goals in life.

In November 2007 Karl achieved a key milestone on his journey to becoming part of the community again; securing full-time employment as a Peer Support Specialist with a local non-government provider of mental health support services. In his role, Karl shares his key to success "to set goals for yourself and never give up hope".

Karl lives his message daily driven by his motivation to be a good role model for his nine year old son. He is now focussed on his next goals; releasing a hip hop album and furthering his career in mental health by completing the National Certificate in Mental Health.

Karl's Workwise Employment Consultant says "it brings tears to my eyes to see how far he has come. I feel proud and privileged that Karl opened up to me and let me be part of his personal journey to employment and recovery."

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case study