Disability Colleague Social Worker Role

EXCITING NEWS!

Disability Connect, has been aware for many years of the challenges that some families and individuals face in negotiating the disability support services and agencies available and coping with other difficulties that having a disability may bring.

We have been fortunate in acquiring some separate funding for a short term advocacy and mentoring social work role aimed at supporting and empowering individuals and families to connect with the right agencies and to guide them to find possible pathways forward from challenges they may be finding stressful or even overwhelming. We are hoping that this is a type of support service that will be extensively utilised in order that we can secure more funding and even expand what we can offer in the future.

Kia ora tātou,

My name is Angela Walter and I am very excited to be part of a new initiative at Disability Connect which means that the organisation can offer an advocacy and mentoring support service to people and their families.

I am a proud mother of three aged 24, 22 and 15 years. My two older children were diagnosed in their preschool years as being on the Autism Spectrum-so I have some insight into the challenges people with disabilities and their families face. This was the main reason that I chose to go back to University as a mature student to gain my degree in Social Work.

Social Workers are concerned with the principles of Human Rights and Social Justice. They work with vulnerable populations alongside people with the aim of supporting them through difficulties and equipping them with knowledge and access to services to enable them to move forward.

The sorts of things that I would anticipate being able to help you with are;

- consulting directly with families and individuals with disabilities either by self-referral or referral from a professional
- meet with you at a suitable time and place to have the ‘difficult conversations’ about your disability related challenges
- help clearly identify the issues faced and suggest possible pathways forward
• assist families and individuals to connect with the various agencies involved such as Work and Income, Taikura Trust, schools, Government ministries, Family Court, Child, Youth and Family, etc

I will be working closely with my wonderful colleagues at Disability Connect who have a wealth of knowledge and contacts in the disability sector and I hope that we can also provide extra support as needed via this Social Work arm of our organisation.

Cheers