

Programme 6 – Autism and Employment

Research: Rebecca Armstrong

Presenter: Val Ockenden

Produced by Louise Ratcliffe and FreeFM89.0

Guests

Catherine Trezona M.A. Psychology (1st Hons)

National manager at Altogether Autism

Catherine joined Altogether Autism as a researcher in 2014, and moved into a managerial role in 2015. She is one of the programme developers and lead facilitators for PRISM. Catherine takes the principle of ‘nothing about us without us’ seriously and highly values the input of Altogether Autism’s consumer reference group. In 2016, Catherine worked with her son Kieran, a software developer at Powershop, to offer a two-day employment skills workshop for autistic talent, and from this small seed, the relationship between Altogether Autism and Specialisterne Australia has developed. Catherine is determined to establish the proven and successful Specialisterne programme into Aotearoa New Zealand and has the backing of Life Unlimited charitable trust to achieve this.

Timothy Folkema

Timothy currently works at Progress to Health. He is a Community Support Facilitator, specialising in advocacy, peer support and peer mentoring for autistic persons and general support for anyone with a long-term disability. Timothy has been serving the people at Progress to Health for near-on five years. Timothy is a passionate advocate for the Autistic community and the Vision-Impaired/Blind community. He chairs the Hamilton speakeasy Jazz Club, is a keyboard/piano player in a Funk-Hip-Hop band called Funk Therapy, a keen collector, and is interested in Japanese culture. He is a graduate of Wintec, "A" student Music Producer and also holds a Graduate Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). Timothy has previous experience with supporting Taekwon-Do for persons with disabilities under the International Taekwon-Do Federation (HQ Austria).

Programme Synopsis

- The difficulties faced by Autistic people looking for employment
- The way companies can benefit from employing Autistic people
- Specialisterne

Music

“Just Us” by The Mutes (from Mars)

“For The Funk” by Funk Therapy

Links

Altogether Autism: <https://altogetherautism.org.nz/>

Specialisterne: <http://specialisterne.com/>

Progress to Health: <http://www.progresstohealth.org.nz/>

