

THE DOMINION POST Job Market

THE BIGGEST RECRUITMENT PUBLICATION IN CENTRAL NEW ZEALAND

ADMINISTRATION.....10	MANAGEMENT.....10
CAREER DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING.....12	OVERSEAS VACANCIES.....9
CHILD CARE.....9	PART-TIME VACANCIES.....9
CONSTRUCTION & PROPERTY.....10	RETAIL.....9
EDUCATIONAL VACANCIES.....9	SALES.....11
GOVERNMENT.....10	SITUATIONS VACANT.....8, 11-12
HAIR & BEAUTY.....10	SITUATIONS WANTED.....10
HEALTH APPOINTMENTS.....11	TRADES & SERVICES VACANCIES.....10
HOSPITALITY & TOURISM.....10	TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS.....9
KEY APPOINTMENTS.....9-10	

Latest ICT Opportunities

SENIOR SILVERLIGHT DEVELOPER - UP TO \$95K

Exciting opportunity to join Kiwi start-up with leading-edge product in the heart of the cloud computing space. Must have experience with Silverlight. Share options available also.

CALL JONATHAN ON 04 494 1130

GRADUATE WEB DEVELOPER - \$45K

This role also with the Kiwi-start up focusing on the development of a leading-edge cloud computing product. All round development skills required, preferably with .NET experience, but attitude and aptitude are key for this role. Company share options also available.

CALL JONATHAN ON 04 494 1130

PROJECT COORDINATOR - \$70K

Medium sized vendor requires highly experienced coordinator to take up this newly created role. Previous experience within a PMO desirable as well as the ability to work autonomously.

CALL SUZANNE ON 04 473 2117

SNR AND INT BUSINESS ANALYST ROLES - GOOD \$\$

Dynamic organisation with busy project environment and excellent working culture. Senior and intermediate level roles available. Must have strong BA experience and a positive and outgoing personality. Financial services sector experience a plus but not essential.

CALL MHAIRI ON 04 494 1189

INTEGRATION DEVELOPERS - EXCELLENT \$\$

Opportunity to join a major transformation programme with a high profile organisation building a new middleware layer. Must have integration experience, preferably around Oracle Middleware. Can pay above market rates for the right person.

CALL JONATHAN ON 04 494 1130

GRAPHIC DESIGNER - \$60-70K

Research company requires a Graphic Designer with strong print experience as well as web design/development. Must be comfortable using XHTML and proficient in Adobe suite products.

CALL SUZANNE ON 04 473 2117

www.beyond.co.nz

Beyond



Jackie Doherty: 'It still really is an unknown profession; people still think you help people to make fluffy bunnies and baskets.'

Photos: JOHN NICHOLSON

Working to make us better

Jackie Doherty is in therapy every day - and loving it, because it helps so many people on the path to recovery and independence.

MENTION the words occupational therapy and it's likely to conjure up images of people with development difficulties working on craft projects.

But long-time occupational therapist Jackie Doherty, of Wellington, says her profession is a lot more than that.

What most people don't know, she says, is that occupational therapists work with people of all ages who, because of illness, injury, developmental delays or psychological problems, need help in learning skills to help them lead independent, productive and satisfying lives.

"It still really is an unknown profession; people still think you help people to make fluffy bunnies and baskets.

"But it's much more focused than that. We use work, leisure, self-care, domestic and community-based activities as a therapeutic tool to help people live as functionally and as independently as possible."

Over her 26-year career Mrs Doherty has worked with thousands of clients and though sometimes it can be "draining", it's a profession she never tires of.

"I've got no regrets - it's an amazing career, because you can work with children right up to the elderly, you work in physical health or mental health, and I'm a people person so it suits me perfectly."

Mrs Doherty started out as a basic-grade occupational therapist in her home country England, running a day programme for the elderly mentally ill, followed by a stint in a hospital working with elderly acute clients.

She then became a community occupational therapist, assessing and rehabilitating clients with a range of disabilities before immigrating to New Zealand with her husband and young son. She had already lined up a job as charge



We made it: From left, Troy Foster, Norm Pouao and Jackie Doherty.

occupational therapist providing assessment and rehabilitation services for the then Tararua Health Board district, based in Dannevirke.

A year later the family relocated to Wellington to be closer to the paediatric oncology clinic where their 11-month-old daughter was receiving treatment for liver cancer.

At that time she couldn't hold down a fulltime or a regular part-time job within the health sector, but instead managed to obtain a tender with ACC whose assessments she worked in with her daughter's treatment regime.

It was the start of a business that has since flourished; today, Independent Living is well-known for specialising in the rehabilitation of people's functional needs. It has 12 staff, including registered occupational therapists, physiotherapists, nurses and rehabilitation coaches who, between them, provide workplace assessments, rehabilitation services and brain injury rehabilitation day programmes from a home base in Johnsonville.

"I got a grant from what's now called BizInfo to buy my first computer - all I had was an old typewriter - then, when work started coming in, I took a couple of other contractors on board and it's built up from there, really.

"Since then it's been onwards and upwards. I never thought I'd be where I am

today. I never thought I'd be in private practice but that's just the way it's panned out."

Independent Living's day programmes have proved particularly successful, stemming from a need Mrs Doherty discovered when she first contracted to ACC.

She and her team of experts work hard with individuals suffering a variety of conditions, mostly those with traumatic brain injuries resulting from car accidents and assault, to help them return to their maximum level of function, where possible. As director, Mrs Doherty's own caseload is lighter these days as she takes on more managerial tasks, but she still looks after several long-term clients, one of whom she's been seeing for nine years.

"When I first met him he was 43, he had a brain injury which resulted in him having a hemiplegia, like a stroke, he was in a wheelchair and he was in a fulltime residential care setting, an old person's setting.

"With help from Housing New Zealand and ACC, we modified a property for him, had special equipment installed and provided him with a decent power chair - now he's living independently on his own, he has 20-odd hours of support a week and he's accessing the community independently."

The now 52-year-old calls her every week for a catch-up and she visits him once a

month to ensure all is well and to iron out any problems.

"There are so many cases like his, so many rewarding moments that it's really hard to pick out one or two," Mrs Doherty says.

While she still keeps her hand in on day-to-day practice, as director her daily tasks vary greatly.

A typical day starts with meetings with staff to plan and organise day programmes and activities, followed by meeting and greeting day programme clients and running the actual programme if she's short-staffed.

That could mean being on the "shop floor" cooking with clients, rock climbing or even operating an electric jigsaw to carry out various projects.

On the same day, but with her management hat on, she could be working on accounts, reviewing reports from her therapists, running training sessions or donning her "corporate outfit" to do urgent workplace or home-based assessments.

Personally, she says, her biggest challenge is public speaking.

"It means standing up in front of a lot of people and it doesn't get any easier over time. I tried Rescue Remedy recently - I could have swallowed the whole bottle and it still wouldn't have worked."

From a business perspective, funding poses the biggest challenge - at present only those who are ACC-funded can take part in her programmes, but her mission this year is to secure funding for those who aren't eligible for ACC as well.

"There is a glimmer of light, we are making headway, though, sadly, in the meantime there are a number of people sitting at home on a daily basis, isolated from their communities, with little or no future, because they can't access our programmes."

Difficult clients, particularly those with behavioural problems, create a whole new set of challenges.

"The most difficult are the ones with frontal lobe damage - they have no brake on their anger, they react, they lose control and lash out.

"We look for the warning signs, we preempt those signs and make sure the person is in an environment that's not likely to spark off that anger.

"It's finding a formula that works, though you can't stop it all the time; you don't have eyes in the back of your head.

"We're fortunate enough to work closely with the psychology department at Massey University, so that when we come across a problem, a senior psychologist comes in for a team meeting to discuss the client, their behaviour and we put together a behaviour management programme, which we then implement."

On the upside, she says the best part of her job is working with not only clients and their families, but her own team.

"We all work really well together, we're quite a tightknit team and we've all got a good sense of humour.

"I don't feel like I come to work to work as such. I enjoy my work and it's not an effort to get out of bed.

"I look at other people who moan and groan about their work but I can't really moan and groan about mine.

"I'm one of the lucky ones."

For more information go to: independentliving.co.nz

TO ADVERTISE in this space
CALL 04 474 0453 or email recruitment@dompost.co.nz
*Terms & conditions apply

THE DOMINION POST

People on the move

Daniel Lord



DANIEL Lord has joined business consultancy company **Igniter** where he will lead projects from Auckland and Wellington. Mr Lord has worked in strategy and transformation in Australia, South Africa and the US.

Felicity Mortimer



Felicity Mortimer has been appointed Wellington business development manager for **Drake International**. Ms Mortimer has worked in the region for a number of years within the recruitment industry.

Hamish Alexander



Hewlett-Packard has appointed **Hamish Alexander** manager for HP imaging and printing group (IPG) in New Zealand. Mr Alexander has had a number of roles within HP including supplies sales and marketing manager in NZ, and in roles for HP South Pacific and Asia Pacific.

PEOPLE on the move is a free service highlighting recent appointments. For inclusion, email details and a photograph to: supplements@dompost.co.nz

Pencil Sketch

- Name: Jackie Doherty.
- Inspired by: *Clientele* - observing their efforts to maintain or work to achieve their optimum level of independence.
- Favourite Movie: *The Notebook*.
- Favourite Music: *Either blues/jazz or pop depending on the mood.*
- Favourite Quote: *'Laughter is the best form of Medicine.'* - Eugene Lam.
- Favourite Website: Facebook
- Favourite Food: *Cooked breakfast, roast beef & yorkies or anything hot and spicy.*