

Media Release

1 May 2007

Spectrum Care leading the field

Spectrum Care and the University of Auckland have developed the Bachelor of Human Services degree which will educate people who want to work in the intellectual disability field.

The degree has been developed through close consultation with staff at Spectrum Care about the content of course papers, which are comprehensive enough to satisfy anyone in the industry.

“This programme has been developed for organizations like Spectrum Care. We want to see our staff engaged in the programme because it is a credible way for staff to professionalize themselves through self-development and begin a career path in the sector,” said Brett Marsh, a general manager at Spectrum Care.

“Some people, such as current staff, may want to study just one paper to enhance their knowledge of the service they deliver and to better understand the lives of the people we support,” said Brett.

Students of the degree are offered work placements in organisations like Spectrum Care while studying to ease them into employment opportunities after graduation.

“The partnership between Spectrum Care and the University of Auckland has made gaining valuable work experience much easier for students,” said Natasha Hutchinson, a recent graduate and newly recruited behaviour therapist at Spectrum Care.

“By combining theoretical knowledge with practical experiences, students come out with a better understanding of the job they are going into. It is also beneficial to the employer,” said Natasha.

Spectrum Care also works closely with the Psychology and Applied Behavioural Analyst programmes at the University of Auckland.

Spectrum Care plans to create more learning opportunities in intellectual disability in the future.

“To do the best we can for our service users, the organisation needs to ensure that all staff is up to speed in their respective disciplines,” said Brett. “This is just one of the many ways in which Spectrum Care hopes to offer staff continued training and in return deliver the highest level of support for service users.

Courses in intellectual disability can be taken as single papers for a Certificate of Proficiency or as part of the Bachelor of Human Services degree. The University of Auckland is currently accepting enrolments for the 2007 second semester which starts in July.

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