

REBECCA SKILTON



SOCIAL CHANGE AGENT

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KEY STRENGTHS

- Mental health diagnostic, planning and support skills
- Strengthening and empowering others
- Advanced interpersonal skills
- Empathetic, Inclusive and Culturally Aware
- Leading from behind to bring about social change
- A strong advocate for healing through partnership, protection and participation

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Registered Comprehensive Nurse
- A Member of the Waikato Community Enterprise Leadership Forum (CELFF) Alumni
- Certificate in Applied Clinical Supervision
- Modular CORE Certificate (MCC)
- Demonstrated skills in Airway Management
- Demonstrated skills in Adult Collapse
- Te Ara Tiki Tuarua (Treaty of Waitangi 1 + 2) University of Waikato

SECONDARY EDUCATION

- WOODFORD HOUSE, Havelock North

CAREER OVERVIEW

I have a background in registered nursing, specialising in mental health, with a passion for strengthening and empowering vulnerable people within the community. During my 25-year nursing career, I took a keen interest in forensic mental health and its outcomes as it seemed to be a persistent revolving door scenario.

For the last nine years I have worked in an innovative social impact start-up - RAW (Reclaim Another Woman) - that I helped to conceptualise. RAW supports women emerging from an incarcerated environment turn a life of crime into a life of hope and promise.

CAREER - CURRENT

CLINICAL OPERATIONS MANAGER - RAW (2014 – current)

RAW was established in 2014 to address the ever-growing intergenerational cycle of recidivist offending, educational underachievement, persistent poverty and violence for a group of New Zealand women aged 18-30 years old.

As RAW's Clinical Operational Manager, I work alongside high and complex recidivist wahine offenders, while incarcerated, to enable them to navigate the correctional space in a timely way and maximise the probational privilege on completion of their corrective behavioural programs. This internal support strengthens a wahine's self-belief, shortens her incarceration period, and encourages a lifestyle change. This transitional support continues out-of-gate when wahine are admitted to the RAW therapeutic community to continue to cement positive change through purpose-driven lifestyle activity and work or study opportunities.

My role encompasses both the practical planning and implementation of the re-integrative rehabilitative model on a daily basis, and the fostering of its ongoing growth and development in conjunction with key stakeholders.

Today, in its ninth year of operation, RAW's outcomes have exceeded all initial targets. We are now witnessing the intergenerational effect that the RAW mahi set out to impact and grow come to fruition; our RAW wahine are sustainably supporting their whānau.

CAREER - EXPERIENCE

MENTAL HEALTH NURSE - District Area Health Boards (1991 – 2008)

As a registered nurse, specialising in mental health, I spent 25 years working for the Government's District Area Health Boards across both the Wellington and Waikato Regions. During my career I worked in a wide variety of fields but always held a special interest in Forensic Rehabilitation and Community Mental Health.

1991 – 2008 - Capital and Coast District Health board (CCDHB)

- 1991-1995 - As a senior staff nurse, I played an active part in the successful deinstitutional-sation and modernisation of the institution formerly known as Porirua Hospital.
- 1995-1997 - To accommodate the needs of a young family, I took on the role of an after-hours duties manager at Duty Calls. My role involved rostering, supervising and providing clinical support for qualified and non-qualified staff.
- 1998-2008 – Employed as a senior staff nurse, working in a multi-discipline team, responsible for treatment planning and risk management of patients with complex diagnoses, security issues, and forensic histories. We worked in partnership with Kia Manaaki of Ruamoko, the bicultural Whare of Ratonga Rua O Porirua.

2008 – 2014 - Waikato District Health Board (WDHB)

- 2008-2014 – after relocating to the Waikato in 2008, I worked autonomously as a Community Mental Health Nurse throughout the Waikato District.

REFERENCES

Ruahine Albert QSM, JP
Chief Executive Officer,
Waikato Women's Refuge
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ALLY OF RAW - Tracey McIntosh
Tracey McIntosh (Tūhoe) is a Professor of Indigenous Studies and Co-Head of Te Wānanga o Waipapa (School of Māori Studies and Pacific Studies) at the University of Auckland. She is the former Co-Director of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, New Zealand's Māori Centre of Research Excellence.