

## Christchurch occupational therapist: Tricia McGuinness receives an award

The 2014 OTNZ- Nga Whakaora Ngangahau Hazel Skilton Founder's award winner for this year is Christchurch resident: Tricia McGuinness.

Tricia is a trail blazer in the development of occupational therapy private practice and in putting vocational assessment on the map. The OTNZ- Nga Whakaora Ngangahau Hazel Skilton Founder's Award is presented to occupational therapists who demonstrate the values shown by Hazel Skilton, the Association's founder. These values are: commitment to occupational therapy; service to others; mentoring; and inspirational leadership.

Hazel Skilton is quoted as saying: *"Never underestimate your influence on those you treat. You will be remembered as someone who has had an effect on their lives as you take personal interest in them, and as you give them the means to improve their health."*

Through this award, OTNZ Nga Whakaora Ngangahau has acknowledged the influence that Tricia McGuinness has had on those she has worked with in the provision of occupational therapy. "This award is a great honour and Tricia received it because she is well regarded for her work in vocational rehabilitation and as a pioneer in the occupational therapy profession" stated Peter Anderson, Executive Director of OTNZ Nga Whakaora Ngangahau.

Tricia designed and co-authored an assessment approach in the 1980's with Betty Hart, industrial psychologist. This approach was adopted by occupational therapists and was known as: The Enabling System and Skills Analysis (TESSA) and became widely used by ACC and Workbridge. As occupational therapy led vocational rehabilitation services developed, Tricia was called on through-out the country to provide lectures in this area. Tricia currently works at WorkRehab in Christchurch as quality manager and vocational rehabilitation specialist. She has a master's degree in Health Science.

Presenters of the Hazel Skilton award acknowledged Tricia's long and innovative career, citing her initiative in providing education and training alongside personal mentoring and coaching to enable improved practice performance.

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Attached photo *Tricia McGuinness with Hazel Skilton*

Occupational therapists are trained to understand humans as occupational beings whose health and wellbeing has a direct correlation to occupation. By occupation, we mean everything people do to occupy themselves, including looking after themselves (self-care), enjoying life (leisure), and contributing to the social and economic fabric of their communities (productivity).