

Employment is a health intervention

Employment support is a core part of a modern mental health and addiction system. We value our working relationships with leaders, funders and planners, service providers and non-governmental organisations who see daily the transformation it brings.

Embedding IPS employment support across Aotearoa

Over the past year, Work Counts provided support to organisations delivering IPS employment support services across Aotearoa New Zealand. This included technical assistance, training and fidelity self-assessments.

- E Ara E (Odyssey), Auckland
- Ember, Auckland
- Emerge Aotearoa, Auckland
- Equip, Auckland
- Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora Te Tai Tokerau
- Mahitahi Trust, Auckland
- Reconnect Family Services, Auckland
- Take Charge (Odyssey House), Christchurch
- Te Mana Oranga, Te Tai Tokerau
- WorkFirst MHAIDS Wellington (Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora)
- Workwise, Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Taranaki, Waikato, Wellington, Whanganui

Health districts visited:

- Canterbury
- Capital, Coast and Hutt Valley
- Counties Manukau
- Lakes
- Taranaki
- Te Tai Tokerau
- Te Toka Tumai Auckland
- Waikato
- Waitematā
- Whanganui.



Ensuring high-quality implementation

5 Self-assessments completed for

- Reconnect Family Services (1)
- WALSH Trust (1)
- Workwise, Bay of Plenty and Whanganui teams (2)
- Workwise Waikato and The People's Project (1)

Supporting workforce development

227 workshop attendees

8 students

undertook IPS module, NZ Diploma in Health and Wellbeing Level 5 Applied Practice in the context of Employment Support

17 new organisations

attended Work Counts training in 2025

23 trainings

(5 online and 18 in-person)

2 bespoke trainings

- Pathways 45-minute mahi - Employment as a health intervention, how community support workers (CSWs) can support in their role
- The People's Project (Tauranga) - Eight Practice Principles of IPS

1 new training launched

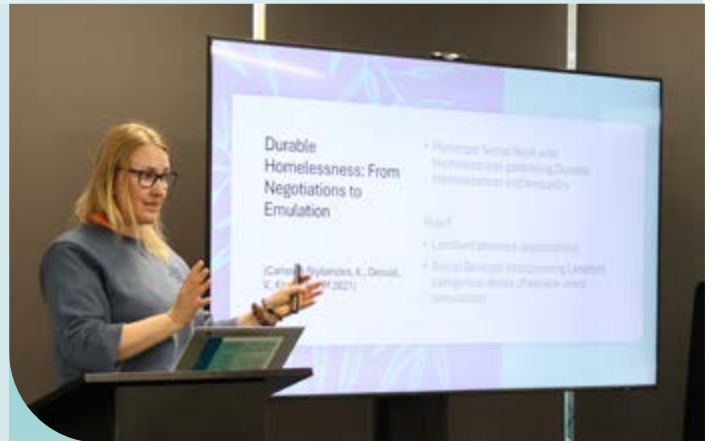
'From Assessment to Action: A Guide to Employment Planning'



Bringing the sector and research together

3 sector events

- IPS Regional Leadership Development Session, Auckland (February)
- IPS Employment Support Practitioner Meet-up, Auckland (May)
- “Experiences from Sweden: Implementing IPS employment support and Housing First - What we learnt” research seminar by Kristina Carlsson Stylianides, Auckland (June)



Kristina Carlsson Stylianides presenting her research at Harakeke House, Manukau (June 2025)

Annual highlight: Workshops expanded to reach new organisations

We take great pride in ensuring our workshop content is relevant and useful to the IPS and wider employment support sector.

In 2025, we took our workshops to new locations from Northland to Invercargill, in response to requests from the sector.

Understanding the needs of providers and communities across the country gave us plenty of ideas and insight to start developing new offerings, starting with a workshop dedicated to vocational assessment and action planning - ‘From Assessment to Action: A Guide to Employment Planning’ which was launched in June.



IPS Employment Support Practitioners Meet-up at Harakeke House, Manukau (May 2025)

Organisations that attended Work Counts workshops during the year:

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| • APM | • Pathways |
| • Career Moves Trust | • Pegasus Health |
| • Catapult Employment Services Trust | • Reconnect Family Service |
| • Choices NZ (IHC Group) | • Skillwise |
| • Community Care Trust | • Te Mana Oranga Trust |
| • Ember Employment | • Te Tahi Youth |
| • Emerge Aotearoa | • The Work Opportunities Trust |
| • Equip | • WALSH Trust |
| • Geneva Healthcare | • Whanake House Charitable Trust |
| • Health NZ Te Whatu Ora Northern Region, Te Tai Tokerau | • Work and Income, Gore (MSD) |
| • Kaute Pasifika Trust | • WorkFirst MHAIDS Wellington (Health NZ Te Whatu Ora) |
| • Mahitahi Trust | • Workwise |
| • NZ Red Cross | |
| • Odyssey | |



IPS Implementation Manager Robert Williams (far right) with attendees at the inaugural From Assessment to Action workshop in Auckland (June 2025)



Sector navigation and education - championing the evidence

Sector activity and initiatives:



Participation and collaboration with the **International IPS Learning Community** and global research network.



Attended Platform Members' Day (March 2025)



Attended in-person gathering of the Asia-Pacific IPS Learning Community in Melbourne, Australia (October 2025)



Coordination of the Asia-Pacific IPS Learning Community, in collaboration with Australian and New Zealand providers.



Attended Orygen's 20-year anniversary event in Melbourne, Australia (October 2025)



Work Counts and the value of IPS employment support included in a new report "A Sound Investment" by Platform (March 2025)



New video: Recording of the Work Counts Seminar sharing experiences from Sweden, by visiting researcher Kristina Carlsson Stylianides (Lund University) available on our YouTube channel (October 2025)

Research highlight

"Integrating Housing First and IPS employment support: A model of impact."

published by the Wise Group (September 2025)



*Work Counts acknowledges the Wise Group, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Development.
We could not achieve what we do, without your support.*