



Deborah Bowditch

PROFILE

An enthusiastic highly motivated clinician with extensive specialist experience continually developing both academically and clinically. Deborah is energetic, flexible and adapts quickly to evolving environments. She believes in a fine balance of work and leisure to gain maximum enjoyment in life.

KEY SKILLS:

Clinical

- High quality eclectic approach to treatment especially within the fields of spinal injuries and neurological diagnosis, based on extensive clinical experience and post-graduate training.
- Thorough working knowledge of complex seating systems, postural management, and mobility assistive devices and their impact on functional outcomes.
- Utilisation of clinical reasoning skills in assessment and treatment in order to maximise the clients functional potential.
- Effective communication within a team of health professionals, community organisations and associated companies.
- Training of staff. e.g. Establishment of standardised induction programmes, training workshops.
- Lead in wheelchair seating review clinics requiring fast thinking to formulate plan for treatment.
- Clinical supervisor for therapist internal and external to STG.
- Level 1 and Level 2 Wheeled Mobility & Postural Management credentialed assessor
- Level 1 Lying (24hr postural management) and Level 2 Complex Custom Fabrication credentialed assessor.
- Training provider for the Level 1 and level 2 Wheeled Mobility & Postural Management credential – main responsibility is for the Level 2 programme.
- Enable New Zealand Credentialing Panel member for Level 2 Wheeled Mobility and Postural Management case study auditor for new applicants.
- Advisor on panel for Enable NZ equipment tender process.
- Experience working with other cultures in some very traditional environments.
- Experience working autonomously within geographically extensive community environments.
- Level IV International Classifier for wheelchair rugby since 1995. Resulting in extensive experience in functional analysis of wheelchair users This is the highest level of classifier and requires sound clinical knowledge and ability to run classification workshops.
- Currently researching the functional impact of 'Troids' surgery for wheelchair rugby athletes, (Posterior deltoid muscle transfer to achieve elbow extension when triceps are no longer innervated).
- Currently involved in research related to assessment of Cerebral Palsy and functional potential measurement.

Managerial

- Development of policies and procedures in line with ratified standards of practice required for Health Waikato Community Health, New Zealand.
- Development of services in response to changing needs. e.g. working for a new and rapidly developing service.
- Introduction of systems and strategies to cope with increasing caseload and short-staffing problems
- Design of clinical supervision systems. e.g. For supervision of therapist requesting assistance with complex seating issues.
- Participate in management of students and therapists, including appraisal and objective setting, e.g. Professional Standards Monitor for Seating and Mobility within the community.
- Contributes to ongoing evaluation of workshop programs.
- Author of Seating and Mobility Handbook designed to aid therapists with clients in wheelchairs
- Written articles for O.T insight eg. Top 10 mistakes made during seating prescription.
- Prior to 1995 Deborah has given presentations on various topics within fields previously specialised in.
- Spinal injuries report to Occupational Therapy forum as a baseline to develop a community framework, 1996.

EDUCATION:

- 1989 Dorset House School of Occupational Therapy, Oxford
Diploma in Occupational Therapy
- 1994 London Guildhall University
MA Design Research for Disability
- 2007 Wintec, Hamilton
BA Media Arts
- 2010 Wintec, Hamilton
Post Graduate Diploma Painting and Sculpture – First Class Honours

POST GRADUATE TRAINING:

This is a small selection, a full list is available on request.

- July 2016 – Postural Management Group Conference
- June 2016 - European Seating Symposium
- Oct 2016, March 2016, October 2015, March 2015 – Wheel of Health Bi-Annual Conferences
- 2015, UK – Mandatory Training: Health and Safety, Information Governance, Fire Safety, Infection Control, Food Hygiene, Basic life support, Manual handling, Protection of vulnerable adults, Complaints and Lone Worker
- 2013, NZ – Smooth Movers manual handling workshop
- 2012, NZ – The Effective Communicator, Peta Joyce
- 2011 - Paediatric Seating & Standing – Bente Storm.
- 2011, DME – Matrix Seating and Heads First Training
- 2009, NZ – Karen Kangas – Paediatric Powered Mobility and Seating 5 day course.
- Sept 2008 – Roho Course
- 2008 – Medifab and Euromedical Product Demonstration
- 2008 – Te Kanga Training, CCS Disability

- July 2008 - Te Tiriti o Waitanga (Treaty of Waitangi)
- March 2008 - Tilite Training Workshop
- December 2007 – Talk Link In-Service
- October 2007 - Paediatric Complex Seating and Manual Wheelchair Workshop, Seating To Go
- 2006 - The Chailey Approach to Postural Management, Active Design Ltd
- 2005, NZ - Whitmeyer head support training course
- 2004, NZ - ASL certification programme for alternative drive controls.
- Annually - Show your ability roadshow
- Facilitated numerous Courses for Ministry of Health (MOH), NZ.
Paediatric and Adult Complex wheeled mobility and seating, 2 day, workshops.
- 24 Hour Postural Management (Sleep Systems and Lying support 2 day workshops)
- Facilitated Spinal Cord Injury Workshops.
Facilitated Workshop on design and research for disability concerning design of baby carrier for parents in wheelchairs, National Occupational Therapy Conference New Zealand

CAREER REVIEW:

April 2015 – present	Posture and Wheelchair Seating Specialist Wheel of Health Ltd, UK
Oct 2002 - Nov 2013	Specialised Wheelchair Seating Therapist Seating to Go, Hamilton, New Zealand.
April 2000 - Oct 2002	Senior 1 Wheelchair Seating Therapist Artificial Limb and Appliance Centre, Wales UK
June 1999 - Nov 2000	Specialised Wheelchair Seating Therapist 'Seating-to-Go,' Ngaruawahia, New Zealand.
Sept 1996 - June 1999	Specialised Wheelchair Seating Therapist Community Health Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand.
Oct 1995 - Sept 1996	Community Occupational Therapist Community Health Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand
Oct 1993 - July 1994	Senior I Occupational Therapist Brachial Plexus Lesions Clinic, Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital Trust, Bolsover St. West London.
Sept 1992 – July 1993	Senior II Occupational Therapist. Spinal Injuries Unit, Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital Trust, Stanmore, London.
Nov 1990 – Aug 1992	Senior II Occupational Therapist. Spinal and Head Injuries, Rookwood Hospital, Bro Taf Health Authority, Cardiff.
Sept 1990 – Nov 1990	Locum Basic Grade O.T. Churchill Hospital, Oxford.
Sept 1989 – July 1990	Basic Grade O.T. John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

- Health Care Professions Council OT 18020
- New Zealand Association of Occupational Therapists
- British Association of Occupational Therapists

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