

# All Sewn Up

An employee's perspective - Martha Lenders,  
Industrial Textiles Machinist, Cairnscorp

Martha Lenders and her husband had moved from South Africa to New Zealand and had been job searching on and off for a couple of years, wondering if they were going to be able to make their dream of living in New Zealand a real success. Martha's husband had heard about the New Kiwis website and so Martha registered with the site in March 2015 and within a few weeks she had received a job alert through [www.newkiwis.co.nz](http://www.newkiwis.co.nz).

Martha immediately applied for an advertised role as a canvas/PVC textiles machinist with a business called Cairnscorp, manufacturers of a range of high quality awnings, shade sails, boat covers, drop screens and tarps made from commercial and industrial fabrics including PVC, canvas and PE.

Martha felt she had a good chance. 'I have a National Diploma in Clothing Design and a National Certificate in Clothing Management. When I left South Africa in 2012 my occupation was Quality Technologist for accessories. But I had also been a Garment Technologist in the apparel industry for eight years.'

'Cheng Goh from New Kiwis saw that I had applied and immediately contacted me by telephone to chat with me and explain the position further. Once she was satisfied that I knew a bit more and that I was a potential match for the requirements in the job description, she forwarded my application to the client, Cairnscorp.

The best part is that Cairnscorp called me straight back so I went for an interview on the Monday and by the Wednesday I was offered the position! I hadn't even gone through the full New Kiwis programme.'

Martha's search for work was just as tidily sewn up as her own machining work she'd been doing for years. Her experience was a plus for Cairnscorp and the timing for her registration on [www.newkiwis.co.nz](http://www.newkiwis.co.nz) couldn't have been better. She was delighted.

As Cheng explains, 'We conducted a phone screen after receiving Martha's application, checked her work experience in relation to the employer's requirements and subsequently tabled her CV to the employer, Cairnscorp. Martha eventually met with Julie Madden from Cairnscorp who arranged for her to attend an on-site practical test plus an interview. Two days later, Martha received a job offer for the position as an industrial textiles machinist.'

Martha's experience has been very positive and she'd like to see more new kiwis find their place in the New Zealand workforce as they start a new life in a new country. 'Never give up. Follow your dreams. If NZ is where you want to live and work, get started now.'

*Interview with Martha Lenders conducted by Taryn Ellis, Auckland Chamber of Commerce, in May 2015.*



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The New Kiwis website and service is a nationwide employment initiative designed to connect new and returning Kiwis with employers via the Chamber of Commerce brand and networks. The website can be used autonomously or additional support and services for both job seekers and employers can be accessed by calling **0800 709 907** or email [newkiwis@chamber.co.nz](mailto:newkiwis@chamber.co.nz).

New Kiwis initiative is a partnership between Immigration New Zealand and the Auckland Chamber of Commerce.