

Another confident career comeback

An employee's story:
Teena Maddren -
John Andrew Ford & Mazda

Before taking part in the Auckland Chamber's Business Professional's programme Teena Maddren's opening statement on her CV was that she was "a single mother of two". She then followed this up with the admission that she had "... not worked since 2006".

Her work experience prior was almost obsolete due to fast moving changes in the industry, and while bringing up her two children she had had little time or opportunity to upskill in the interim.

Teena's story is not unlike many of our unemployed currently receiving a benefit. She wanted desperately to work and had been a professional person prior to becoming a mother, but 8 years out of the workforce meant that her confidence had been seriously eroded to the point where she had little faith or belief in herself or her skills.

Thankfully James Rapihana from the Work and Income Service Team in Henderson could see beyond this and made sure Teena was referred to the Chamber to take part in the Business Professional's programme.

"I had been out of work for 8 years and didn't have much confidence, however when I did the training with Chamber Of Commerce my confidence grew, I was motivated and I too began to believe in myself. The Chamber mentors believed in what they were teaching and they believed in us. They gave us confidence and were always willing to help and be positive and were so supportive."



The Business Professional's team stepped in to help Teena in numerous ways including creating a CV that reflected her transferrable skills, helping her to develop skills in networking and cold-calling so she would be better equipped to sell her strengths to a potential employer. The Chamber was also able to act as a referee for Teena to help support her applications to potential employers.

"I highly recommend the Business Professionals programme. It helped me in so many ways. The teachers are brilliant at what they do. They go out of their way to support you so you can achieve your goals and head in the direction you want to go in."

The Business Professionals team identified 12 job opportunities for Teena and helped her secure 3 interviews before she was offered a position with John Andrew Ford & Mazda.

Teena's final email to the Business Professional's team summed up her journey and paints a vivid picture of the success of this programme in the eyes of the Business Professional participants.

"I start Monday 21st July. I'm so happy, they seem like an awesome company to work for. My hours are 9.30am – 4.30pm which is perfect. I can't thank you enough for all your support and giving me confidence, you made me feel like I am worth it and I can do it, so I truly thank you for that." ■

Programme feedback provided by Teena Maddren, and compiled by Rebecca Hendl-Smith, Communications Executive, Auckland Chamber of Commerce – September 2014.

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The Business Professional is a partnership between the Ministry of Social Development and Auckland Chamber of Commerce.