

The muscle behind your recruitment solutions

An employer's story:
Future Cuisine



Future Cuisine is a Mussel processing business based in West Auckland. They employ 26 staff and some additional seasonal or project based temp staff as needed. Their core business is the processing of mussels for both domestic and export markets.

"Our first contact with the Chamber's employment service was through the online New Kiwis division," explains General Manager Gary Kouwenhoven. "We had posted a job advertisement on the site as we were keen to look into new migrants as possible candidates for work with our company. We have found staff who have newly arrived in NZ are generally very capable, and willing to work hard and have a hunger to learn the skills needed to work in our industry.

However we were actually contacted by another division of the Chamber's employment team (Business Professionals). They explained they had seen our advertisement and thought they had a candidate from their Business Professionals programme who would be perfect for the job, and so they sent me Angela's CV.

It turned out that Angela had direct experience in the seafood industry, had worked with quality control processes, and different food safety practises so basically had exactly the skills and experience we needed."

Angela has since passed her three month trial period with Future Cuisine and according to Gary she has settled into the team environment very well.

"The whole recruitment process went really smoothly and we were extremely impressed by the proactive way the Chamber's employment department worked together. We thought we were just signing up for an online job listing but we got quick professional personal service because of the proactive way the Chamber's employment team worked together to match the best candidates with employers.

The service provided by the Business Professional Return to work programme was prompt, efficient and resulted in us being able to successfully employ a prospective candidate within days of my first contact." ■

Interview with Gavin Kouwenhoven Of Future Cuisine conducted by Rebecca Hendl-Smith Communications Executive at the Auckland Chamber of Commerce on 10 October 2014.

AUCKLAND
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Business Vitality

BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS
CONTRACT, PART & FULL-TIME

The Business Professional is for those seeking 'business support' roles. Including but not limited to: reception, call centre, admin, accounts, EA/PA, and sales. Participants must be in receipt of a benefit and from Auckland. Call **0800 709 907** or email recruitment@chamber.co.nz for more information.

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

The perfect match

An employee's story:
Angela Harlow – Future Cuisine



A great employment success story, at its simplest is about connecting a candidate with the perfect set of skills, experience and attitude to a company looking for all those things at exactly the same time. Recruiting is a stressful time for the employer and the process can take weeks, and can be prone to error, sometimes compromises must take place and sometimes bad appointments can occur too.

But for Business Professional's participant Angela Harlow, and her now current employer Future Cuisine, this was one of those matches and it all happened very fast!

Angela's journey from CV to signed contract took all of 3 days. Her CV was delivered to Future Cuisine on the Wednesday and an interview followed the next day, an offer made and the following Monday saw Angela re-ignite her career as the new Food Safety & Quality Manager at Future Cuisine's Head Office in Swanson, Auckland.

This perfect match was facilitated by the Business Professional's programme which delivered a much needed confidence boost and provided Angela with some intensive sessions of upskilling particularly focusing on interview techniques and improving her presentation skills.

"I hadn't had an interview in 20 years and had no idea what I needed to do. But after completing the course (Business Professionals programme) I had more confidence

in presenting myself in an interview, knowing what information I needed to offer about myself and how to show my past experience and skills to best effect."

Angela was referred to the Business Professionals programme by her case manager Sofaea Kepu at the New Lynn Work and Income service centre. Sofaea recognized Angela as someone with considerable skills and professional experience who would respond to the intensive and focused training provided by the Chamber of Commerce.

As this success demonstrates, the Chamber's unique and in-depth understanding of business needs and challenges enable Business Professional candidates to look beyond their current unemployment status and re-align their past skills and experience into an attractive proposition for employers now.

Future Cuisine initially responded to marketing for one of our migrant employment initiatives – funded by Immigration New Zealand - but as all opportunities are circulated to all our team here, it didn't take long for us to identify Angela as one of the best candidates to put forward. Having that extra marketing reach really does ensure we maximize our reach into the business community to source opportunities for the clients we work with and Angela is proof of this! ■

Programme feedback provided by Angela Harlow, and compiled by Rebecca Hendl-Smith, Communications Executive, Auckland Chamber of Commerce – July 2014.

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