

Andrew Hoffmann – working with ‘just a great bunch of people’

Andrew Hoffmann has recently been promoted from Customer Service Representative to Second in Charge (2IC) at the New Brighton Z service station in Christchurch.

It's a mark of confidence in Andrew, who has a neurological symptom disorder that impacts on his mobility.

Hattrick Operations Manager Anton Hutton says Andrew's a great team member who adds huge value to the New Brighton store.

“Andrew is very self-aware of his condition and ensures he operates safely. He will take a seat when he needs it, while always moving his team forward in the service stakes.”

Andrew hails from Christchurch and gained NZIM diplomas in management and business at Christchurch Polytech, before developing the disorder in his twenties. Through Workbridge, Andrew gets Ministry of Social Development Support Funds, which help cover any additional costs that an employee faces as a direct consequence of their disability. In Andrew's case, because he is not able to drive, this means taxi travel between home and work.

Andrew joined Hattrick over 10 years ago.

“Not long after I started my disability got worse and I wasn't able to work for a while, but once I recovered I came back, on a trial basis at first, and have been here ever since.

“I worked the overnight ‘graveyard shift’ for about eight years but switched to days two years ago and was promoted a few months ago.

“I work with a great bunch of very relaxed people. They just take it (disability) in their stride.”

Away from work Andrew walks extensively to keep fit and because he finds it helps to keep his disability under control. He often does 15-20km walks, recently completed a half marathon and is in training for his next one.

Anton Hutton says Hattrick, which has 170 staff, has recruited more than 60 people through Workbridge over the past eight years. Staff have also accessed MSD Support Funds to cover work-related costs arising as a direct consequence of a disability, including adaptive technology where needed.

“We have a very good relationship with Workbridge. They build relationships and get to know what you are looking for. We want people with personality and drive. If I do ten interviews, four of them will probably come from Workbridge and often they are the best candidate – people looking for that opportunity.”



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