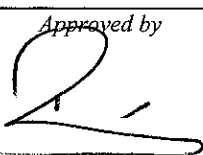


# WALSH Trust Philosophy

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*Written by*  
Dana Palmer  
Quality Forum Chair

*Approved by*  


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WALSH Trust was established in May 1988 and is an independent, living charitable trust. A Board of Trustees responsible for policy oversight, employs an Executive Director and a team of Managers and Team Leaders to manage and operate the facilities and programmes of the Trust.

WALSH Trust acknowledges that the Treaty of Waitangi was an agreement between two people – tangata whenua and tauwi – and sought to establish the principle of partnership in the life of New Zealand/Aotearoa. This goal is supported by the Trust. Policies and operation of the organisation will seek to reflect the basic partnership.

WALSH Trust endorses the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations (1971) which acclaim that all of the human family, without distinction of any kind, have equal and inalienable rights of human dignity and freedom to education and training to enable development of their abilities to their fullest potential.

The philosophy underlying the WALSH Trust policy development, service delivery and management procedures is based on a series of assumptions. WALSH Trust believes:

1. All people, including people with mental illness, have the right to be treated with dignity and respect, to maximum choice and independence, and to have the opportunity to enjoy a quality of life which is satisfying and appropriate for them.
2. The stigma associated with mental illness remains a significant barrier to the welfare/well-being of those affected, and increases their sense of vulnerability and feelings of isolation and loneliness.
3. Early diagnosis, appropriate intervention and timely support services can prevent many long-term problems for people with mental illness.

4. People with mental illness can reach their full potential when they experience:
  - Flexible work, accommodation and social environments.
  - Opportunity to exercise control and develop decision-making skills.
  - Social and community links which are satisfying.
  - Opportunity to engage in activities which restore dignity, confidence, and a sense of purpose.
  - Insights about their illness, and tap their own potential to build a framework for wellness.
  - A development of life skills which enable a positive and satisfying participation in all aspects of community living.
  
5. Community based services for people with mental illness should be characterised by:
  - Partnership with clients which are open and honest.
  - A variety of programmes which focus on individual needs and aspirations.
  - A recognition of the need to respond to the fluctuations of wellness experienced by individuals.
  - An emphasis on the client developing and using self-advocacy skills and, when appropriate, direct advocacy on their behalf.
  - A sensitivity to the needs of Maori and other Ethnic groups, and programmes which are culturally appropriate.
  - Committed and competent staff who are accountable in their relationships and responsibilities.
  - Effective and efficient planning, monitoring and evaluation procedures which ensure service delivery of high quality.
  
6. Individual Plans related to the needs and interests of each client, based on personal goals; developed in conjunction with significant people in the clients personal network; recorded, reviewed and updated regularly; will maximise the benefit of the service to the individual.

7. Organisations providing services for people with mental illness have an obligation to:

- Be actively involved in network and co-operating with other agencies in the community working with their clients.
- Be accountable to clients and funding agencies in terms of the quality of its services and its use of resources.
- Ensure effective and efficient management of the organisation goals and objectives in terms of client's benefits.