

## SIGNS OF CHANGE OUTLINE

**Title:**

Mana Recovery – Sustainability and Mental Wellbeing through Community Partnerships

**Reporters:**

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We were established in 1996 to provide vocational rehabilitation programmes to people with mental health needs. After identifying that there was great difficulty for the people that we support to move beyond our programmes into paid employment and because the funding we received was not sustaining our services, we developed a range of small business initiatives to ensure a more sustainable future for both our trainees and our organisation.

In 2002 our CEO Alison Lewin visited resource recovery operations in England. Alison realised that these models could be applied at Mana Recovery to further its objective of creating employment for our trainees coupled with a developing environmental objective.

Mana Recovery partnered with Porirua City Council and established Trash Palace – a resource recovery and education village.

Today up to 100 people per day participate in a variety of training programmes and Mana Recovery now employs more than 25 people with mental health needs in full or part time positions within the organisation.

Last year we diverted over 600 tonnes of materials from the landfill to be either reused or recycled.

We also have a community recycling collection service that currently diverts over 100 tonnes of recyclable materials from the landfill.

Providing meaningful community services through business initiatives that increase employment opportunities for employees and also benefit our environment is a recipe of success for Mana Recovery. With the partnering and support of our local council, businesses and the community, together we are paving the way to a truly sustainable future.

