SERVICE MANAGER PROFILE: DANIEL CHESHIRE PACT OTAGO

Daniel's family keeps him busy outside of work.

What is your history with Pact?

This is my second stint with Pact. Originally I started as a permi-flex Support Worker in disability services and then moved into a coordinator role at 267 North Rd for several years.

This was around seven to eight years in total. I would like to say I took a sabbatical and moved to Brisbane/Gold Coast. I lived there for nearly four years, working as a Case Manager in child safety and also a Theatre Orderly at a private hospital, before returning to Pact and taking on the role of Service Coordinator at The Apartment.

I later transitioned to my current role looking after the Supported Independent Living service (supporting people who live independently in the Dunedin community with a disability). My second stint at Pact has been 10.5 years.

What were you doing before coming to Pact?

I worked at Speight's filling kegs and loading trucks and then at The Ale House in the bar and worked my way up to a chef in the kitchen.

What attracted you to Pact?

Change and the desire to help people live a better life in the community and gain confidence in all aspects.

What is the best thing you do at work?

Making people smile and having a laugh.

What is the best thing about working for Pact?

Pact have been really good and supportive to me in my many years here. They have allowed me to trust my processes and provided support, trust, a great environment and have an awesome view on all the important things that the people we support require.

What have you learned since being with Pact?

How much we all take our physical and mental health for granted. Things can change rapidly in the blink of an eye. Always check in on each other.

What are you most proud of in your role?

Knowing my team all strive to make a difference in their roles and take the time to make someone's day so much better than it could have been without support. Oh, and I'm pretty good at letting my staff take leave … You can back me up on that eh team?!

What would you say to someone thinking about joining us?

You have nothing to lose and so much to gain. I've been here 18 years and still always find a new challenge.