



# Wellington People's Centre

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# “Welfare Dependency”

- Reliance on Welfare is not the problem
- Welfare is the Solution

# The problem is a society that does not value non-financial contributions

- Care-giving
- Volunteering
- Different levels of ability or wellness

Being without paid work is depressing  
and demoralising

Those without paid work are treated as  
second class citizens

To feel able to contribute people must  
be empowered and treated with  
respect

# Rehabilitation is only a small part of the answer

People need meaningful engagement with real and sustainable outcomes

Steps toward employment

- Voluntary or part-time work
- Education
- Treated as valuable

# Employers need skills to support employees with barriers

- Flexibility to be able to fit roles to individuals
- Understanding of people's circumstances
- Valuing different experiences and abilities

# Need to change the way we view work

- Where it takes place
- How it is valued
- What it is

# Summary



- Don't Deny
- Don't Minimize
- Do value different abilities and experience
- Do Respect and Empower