



My experience learning to be a research assistant with a learning disability

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Overview

1. Introduction
2. How I came to be interested in research
3. What my job involves
4. How I am learning research skills
5. How I work within a team
6. The things that are exciting about being a disability researcher
7. The things that are hard about being a disability researcher

Introduction

- Who I am
- The Three Dog-Migo's
 - Davey-Dave
 - Dougal
 - Danie



How I came to be interested in research

- In 2017 I presented at the University of Otago Disability Matters Conference.
- I have also done some lectures to help teaching students learn about how to mentor and engage with students with a learning disability in the right way.
- In 2023 I went to the ASID conference in Melbourne
- Brigit Mirfin-Veitch asked me if I wanted to work at the DBI as a research assistant.
- I thought about it for a little bit then said yes!



My work at the Donald Beasley Institute (DBI)

Where I am working

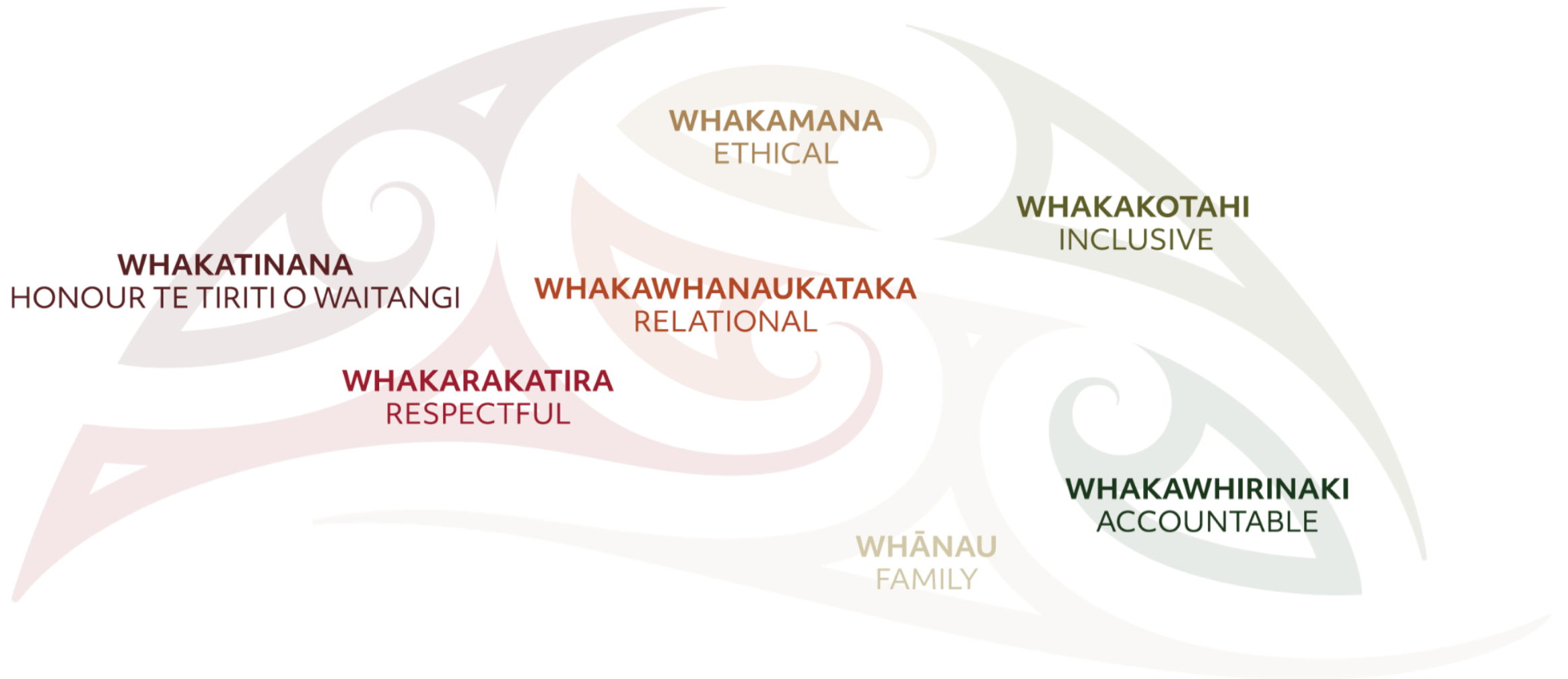


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Ko wai mātou? Who are we?



Kā Mātāpono / DBI Values



How I work within a team

- I work on the project with Nic McKenzie, Patrick Doherty, Henrietta Tripp, and Brigit Mirfin-Veitch.
- I also work alongside the wider team such as Umi, Lydie, Ash, and Lulu.
- It's quite awesome to work with a team because sometimes other people within the team can come up with ideas which you never would have thought of yourself.
- I enjoy being part of the team because I feel included.



What my job involves

- I am working on a project about supported self management, supported decision-making and health and well being for people with a learning disability.
- These are some of the things I do at work
 - Reading research papers
 - Reading over easy read information to make sure it is understandable
 - Leading advisory group meetings
 - Helping with the ethics application
 - Doing presentations
 - Planning research
 - Soon I will be doing interviews!



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**The exciting things, and the hard
things, about disability research**

The exciting things about being a disability researcher

- I really enjoy working here at the Donald Beasley Institute.
- I have really enjoyed meeting all of the DBI team.
- Meeting the advisory group for the first time was exciting.
- Learning new skills
- Getting to present
- Having a paid part time job
- Making a difference to my community

The hard things about being a disability researcher

- Sometimes I find reading the research a bit hard because some of the research is quite sad. But it is very important to read because it puts things into perspective.
- Being able to debrief with Brigit and other members of the team is really helpful.



My Highlights

Conclusion

- I feel very lucky to work as a research assistant at the Donald Beasley Institute.
- I encourage all workplaces to give people with a learning disability a chance.

Questions?



Artwork by Julia Young



Kā mihi – thank you

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