



THE
WELLINGTON
WOMEN'S
HOUSE

TE WHARE AWAI WAHINE
O WANGANUI-A-TARA

"I cried when I first arrived,. The warmth, kindness and generosity that I felt from the staff dissolved the darkness, and cold bitter nights that I encountered on the streets "

Pania

Pania's Story

Pania has a lot to celebrate this year! This lovely woman is turning 40 and living alone for the first time. A former care worker, she had always lived with her parents and sibling in the Greater Wellington region. She had to quit this job, eventually, in order to care full time for her parents after their health began to fail, and due to her own health beginning to decline

Late last year, the stress of the living situation at home reached crisis point and became untenable. There were safety issues and Pania reached out to Citizen's Advice Bureau for help. Having never asked for any assistance in her life from Work and Income or the community, this was not easy for her; she is a proud woman. She was referred to us after a short period living on the streets, she had few personal possessions.

"My experience in this House would prove to be important for my wellbeing; to be able to gain back my self-esteem"

The staff at Wellington Women's House, assisted her in getting a clothing grant and took her shopping so she could have the basics, and a food parcel from Wellington City Mission while she settled in. She stayed with us for 9 months; longer than usual but she required major surgery. On her return from hospital, she recovered in a room we set up to be more accessible for her needs.

Once recovered, staff referred her to budgeting services to help her manage her debts and she began to save for her move. Pania began house hunting with staff accompanying her to flat viewings and assisting her with applications. Eventually she found a lovely place; that is perfect for her current needs before taking the next steps in her independent life.

Pania's story isn't over with the House as we will continue to do outreach ensure that she is happy and able to manage her living situation. Pania has truly blossomed.

*Pania is not the resident's real name.

Wellington Women's House is a registered charity that provides short term and emergency housing for single women. For more information or to donate please visit www.wwbh.org.nz