

## **Marian Galvin**

Marian's been working in the role of transition co-ordinator since the Ministry of Social Development updated the Transition programme to its current form in 2008. On average Marian works with 40 – 60 students each year, liaising with them and their family, GPs, schools and other support networks to figure out what's going to work best for them. "No two situations are the same so there needs to be lots of communication between all parties and I see a major part of my role as keeping those lines of communication open," says Marian. A major issue facing whanau is transport. There's no (or very limited) taxi/transport funding once the student finishes school, leaving many families without the means to get their young person to where they need to be. "It comes as a shock ... that the environment outside of school doesn't have the support levels they've enjoyed all those years while in school. But we just have to deal with whatever is in front of us. It's about taking small, measured steps and working at the speed of the client," says Marian. While High Needs (HN) and Very High Needs (VHN) ORS funded students are entitled to the MSD transition service, there are a lot of youngsters who fall just outside that group but still require some sort of help to take them through to the next stage of their lives. Marian and other transition co-ordinators offer non-funded students and families' information and limited informal supports. Marian has privately funded students but ultimately there's a limit to how many can be managed at one time and places in day programmes and employment opportunities are already stretched for our young people living with disabilities.