



# Working in special education

Special education adviser





## Meet Linda Terry, a special education adviser in Hamilton

Linda Terry works for the Ministry of Education as a special educational adviser (SEA).

### Linda's story

Linda worked as a primary teacher for 27 years, before joining the Ministry in 2007. She is a mother of two adult children and is an avid reader, trumper, and dragon boat paddler.

### Linda's day-to-day

As a special education adviser, Linda has a very diverse job working with children and young people with special education needs. She supports schools and families with planning programmes and works with teachers on adapting classroom programmes and creating teaching resources.

### Reflecting cultural values in her work

Linda has done courses in Te Reo Māori and tikanga Māori to deepen her understanding of Māori historic perspectives and culture. "We all work hard to ensure that we are sensitive and respectful of all cultures and take our lead from the families, whānau and schools we work with."



### Rewards of the role

**Linda says she loves** “visiting students in schools who are getting on with being a class member, and problem solving with staff and parents when things aren’t quite so rosy.”

### Future aspirations

Linda would like to gain accreditation for the Incredible Years programme and work towards becoming an Incredible Year’s peer mentor.

## Nature of the work

### Special education advisers:

- › work closely with schools, teachers to support them plan to meet the special education needs of children and young people within the NZ Curriculum or Te Marautanga o Aotearoa
- › work collaboratively with a child or young person's family/whānau and wider support team to agree on challenges and barriers and the solutions to enhance children and young peoples' presence, participation and achievement.

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## Qualifications and experience

### To apply to become a special education adviser you need:

- › a teaching qualification with the full New Zealand teacher registration and a current practising certificate
- › extensive experience working with children and young people with special education needs.





## Skills and knowledge

In addition to the qualifications a special education adviser must have knowledge of or skills in:

- › working in schools and the NZ Curriculum/ Te Marautanga o Aotearoa
- › teaching and teaching practice
- › managing special education needs in a variety of settings
- › education theory and child development, learning and behaviour
- › community and family support services
- › effective communication, teaching, research and planning.

## Career development

Becoming a special education adviser with the Ministry of Education will give you the rewards and challenges of the job itself, as well as opportunities to develop your career.

### You will be:

- › be supported and supervised by experienced professional colleagues
- › be kept able to keep up to date with the latest evidence and take part in ongoing training
- › work to support the development of schools and teachers
- › have opportunities to share and extend your knowledge and skills.

There might also be opportunities to take part in projects or working groups and in time, you might be considered for leadership roles.









## Further information about special education advisers

### Special education careers and professional development

For more information about the role of a special education adviser and working in special education, visit our special education careers webpage **[www.education.govt.nz/careers-in-special-education](http://www.education.govt.nz/careers-in-special-education)**

### Special education scholarships and study awards

If you're interested in a career in special education you may be eligible for a scholarship or study award. Find out more at **[www.education.govt.nz/r/sestudyawards](http://www.education.govt.nz/r/sestudyawards)**

### Career information

For profiles of different careers visit the Careers New Zealand website **[www.careers.govt.nz](http://www.careers.govt.nz)**

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## Contact us

Want to speak to someone about a career as a special education adviser? Give us a call or drop us an email.

### Ministry of Education – Special Education

[special.education@education.govt.nz](mailto:special.education@education.govt.nz)  
0800 622 222