## **Michelle Stevens - Service Lead and SLT**

Ko Blueridge te maunga
Ko Potomac te awa iti
Ko Washington DC aho
Ko Snead toku whanau
Ko Johnsonville toku kainga inainei
Ko Michelle Stevens toku ingoa

Kia ora, I came to New Zealand after gaining my Master's in Speech Language Therapy at San Diego State University and completing my fellowship year in a private practice setting in North Carolina, United States. I have worked as a speech therapist in the Ministry of Education, Child Development Service and Explore Specialist Advice. I completed my PhD at Victoria University looking at alternative forms of communication in children with developmental differences. My passion is working with autistic individuals of all ages and helping them to maximise their unique skills and capabilities to increase their self-identity and quality of life. As well as working in the Autism New Zealand Diagnostic Service, I also work as a speech therapist for the Victoria University Autism Clinic. I identify as neurodiverse with a recent diagnosis of ADHD, and have three children, two of which also identify as neurodiverse.

## Kristy Haslam - Lead Psychologist

Ko wai au?
No Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA ahau
Ko Te Whanganui-a-tara toku kainga inaianei
Ko Kristy Haslam ahau
Kei te Autism New Zealand au e mahi ana

Kia ora, I grew up in the United States and moved to Aotearoa, New Zealand over 20 years ago. I have raised my two children here in Wellington, they are now young adults. I enjoy bush walks, dancing and travelling.

I have been a practicing psychologist for over 10 years and have worked across a range of healthcare, education and disability settings. I have both personal and professional experience with neurodiversity and have been privileged to work with autistic individuals for nearly 25 years, both in the USA and NZ.







## <u>Kate Garland –</u> Educational Psychologist

E nga mana E ngā reo E ngā karanga Maha o te wā Tenā koutou katoa Ko Tararua ngā pae maunga Ko Manawatu te awa Ko Garland te iwi whānau Ko Pakeha te iwi

Nō te Papa-i-oea au, e nohu ana ahau ki Pōneke inaianei Kei te Autism New Zealand au e mahi ana He kaimātai hinengaro tōku tunga mahi Ko Kate tōku ingoa No reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa

Kia ora, I grew up in Palmerston North and have lived in Wellington for over 25 years, so I call the lower North Island home. I have two teenage children who keep me busy as a parent taxi. My personal interests include reading, vintage shopping and gardening. I retrained as an educational psychologist after a career in health policy. I sometimes describe my psychologist role as being a detective, gathering and pulling together different pieces of information. I especially enjoy working with neurodivergent people and their whānau to support their wellbeing, and access to health and education.