

# One minute with Public Health Analyst Charlotte Ward

## What does your job involve?

My day-to-day analyst role involves producing research and crunching data to support public health action. Whether that be carrying out infectious disease surveillance, updating the Canterbury Wellbeing Index, or evaluating public health programmes.

But, like so many within our health system, my role has changed significantly since COVID-19. Most of my work now supports Community and Public Health's contact tracing work. This means liaising with the National Investigation and Tracing Centre at the Ministry, training staff how to use contact tracing information systems and updating procedures.

## Why did you choose to work in this field?

I truly believe the saying, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". New Zealand's COVID-19 response is a perfect example of effective and cost-saving public health measures in action.

## What do you like about it?

The past 10 months have been a rollercoaster, but I've enjoyed the variety and responsive nature of the COVID-19 work. Analyst work often involves working with very few others, so it's been a delight to work with a large team of amazing people throughout the Canterbury Health System.

## What are the challenging bits?

We're constantly learning more about COVID-19 and therefore our policies and response changes frequently. You'll finish updating a procedure and then a change in policy will occur nationally, and you'll find yourself working on a new draft procedure!

## Who inspires you?

People who dedicate chunks of their life to helping others through voluntary work – truly inspiring and selfless.

## What do Canterbury DHB's values (Care and respect for others, Integrity in all we do and Responsibility for outcomes) mean to you in your role?

COVID-19 has been a stressful time for many of us working within the health system, and public health outcomes have certainly been in the spotlight. Showing colleagues patience and kindness in times of stress has been so important throughout the past months, while striving as a team to maintain an effective and efficient contact tracing response.

## Something you won't find on my LinkedIn profile is...

The number of times I've re-watched the TV show Friends.



**If I could be anywhere in the world right now it would be...**

A beach in Bali with fresh food and cocktails.

**What do you do on a typical Sunday?**

Brunch in the morning with friends and a walk up the Port Hills with my pup, Ardie.

**What's your favourite food?**

A good platter filled with delicious cheese and fresh dips.

**And your favourite music?**

I like a mix, but for a road trip I love some Kiwi classics like Six60, Fat Freddy's, Broods and throw in some Dave Dobbyn for good measure!