

Ko Putauaki te maunga
Ko Rangitaiki te awa
Ko Kokohinau te marae
Ko Ngatiawa te Iwi
Ko Te Pahipoto Te Hapu
Ko Mataatua te waka,
Ko Sharleen Tongalea tōku ingoa

With a profound commitment to empowering the Māori and Pasifika communities, Sharleen, a person of Niuean and Māori descent, has dedicated her career to serving individuals with disabilities. Born with a vision impairment that has significantly shaped her life, Sharleen is a proud member of the Whānau Hāua / Tangata Whaikaha Māori, a community that recognises and supports Māori individuals with impairments.

Currently employed at CCS Disability Action, a reputable disability service provider in Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland), working to enhance the quality of life for adults with impairments and disabilities. The mahi involves comprehensive advocacy and passionate service to ensure that individuals with lived experiences of disabilities receive the support and care they need.

Sharleen brings a unique blend of cultural awareness, personal experience, and professional expertise. As a representative of the Māori and Pasifika communities, she actively engages in the disability sector, advocating for inclusivity and accessibility. Her advocacy efforts extend beyond the workplace, contributing to the broader conversation on disability rights and representation.