

Annie Romanos

Ever since I can remember I've wanted to do something really positive in this world - in the not-for-profit sector and more recently with individuals to facilitate personal and professional development. Growing up in a family of six, I remember boisterous meal times with strangers my parents invited back from their church to help them feel part of a community and feel special. My parents eventually moved to missionary life which included working in prisons, and I can't deny that their influence has played a big part in my choices and career (even though I'm not religious!). As a teenager I dreamt of working with poor communities in Guatemala. This didn't eventuate then, but I ended up some 15 years later in India doing just that.



I've always searched for more meaning in my life. After an advertising career in my twenties, I travelled South East Asia wanting more than running ad campaigns, managing big accounts, and working some ridiculously long hours. What followed on my travels was humbling, witnessing the realities of life in abject poverty. I wanted to be a part of change. When I returned to NZ from India I completed a Masters in Development Studies. I thought I'd found my niche. But something was missing. The 'business' of development was a turn off for me. Notions such as "tied aid" (aid given with conditions, often really tricky, unfair conditions), well meaning folk driving change in cultures so drastically different. The cause was worthy, the practice was lacking and I felt I had gifts that weren't being accessed working in the political environment of development. I wanted more connection with myself and others, and wanted to facilitate change on a personal level with others.

Fast forward a shift to development much closer to home. Since my first child 9 years ago, I've been involved in an education charity whose goal is to empower individuals to uncover their true potential. I've been fascinated by mindfulness, seeing how the unconscious mind drives a whole bunch of choices and feelings, and is at the heart of disconnection with ourselves and others. Putting a magnifying glass on the unconscious mind has the potential to absolutely change our lives and make decisions from a place of love not fear. It's super powerful stuff. Wholehearted Work has wholeheartedly grown out of this and I look forward to working with you to help uncover your all round amazingness to get you back on track with work – and indeed, the rich journey of life.

Some things I've studied and done..

Masters of Philosophy (Development Studies), Massey University (fieldwork in Fiji)

BA (Women's Studies, English Literature), Victoria University (2/3rds completed)

Mentor, Power of Connection course, Kairos NZ

Psychodrama Workshops

Team Leader, Facilitator, Steering Group Chair, Kairos Foundation NZ

Project Coordinator, Ark Foundation, India

Parenting Conference Coordinator, Kapiti Waldorf Trust

Writer and Advisor, PHREB (Promoting Human Rights and Education in Bangladesh)

Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant, Family Planning International

Volunteer Coordinator, International Volunteers for Peace, Sydney

Account Management, Haines Recruitment Advertising