

Karen Moloney

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Development Team Lead

Wellnomics Ltd

Converting ergonomic data and behaviour modification strategies into computer code is all in a day's work for Irish-born developer Karen Moloney.

Born in Dublin, Karen graduated with a Masters in Computer Systems Engineering from Bristol University in 1994, and spent 10 years working for software development houses in the UK before coming to New Zealand on a working holiday visa in 2004.

She bought a car in Auckland and spent six months driving around the country before discovering Christchurch and deciding to base herself in the city.

"Christchurch just offered so much. I love that you can live by the sea but the mountains are not far away, and the fact that there is a different attitude to work here."

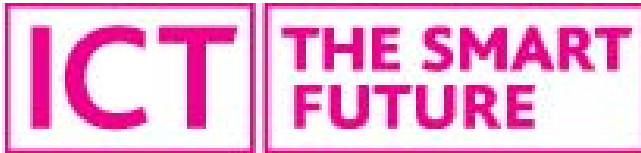
Karen joined ergonomic software developers Wellnomics in 2005 as a Senior Software Developer, and now leads a team of seven developers as they ensure that customers benefit from an extremely user friendly, accessible product.

Wellnomics' products WorkPace® and Wellnomics Risk Management software are designed to assist computer users to manage and avoid injury such as RSI (repetitive strain injury) or OOS (occupational overuse syndrome).

The WorkPace software is installed on individual user machines and provides regular reminders during the work day to take micro pauses, and from time to time, to take a longer break and do some stretching exercises. The more sophisticated Risk Management modules also factor in issues like overall fitness and stress, at work and outside work, and create a risk profile for each computer user, which means managers can ensure each employee has an appropriate workload and is looking after their health and wellbeing properly.

As developers, they regularly put themselves in the shoes of all the different types of people who might be using the software, ensuring that everyone from the most technically minded to the least computer savvy will find it equally easy to use.

"We might picture ourselves as a new HR manager and work out how easy or difficult he or she might find the instructions and usability, then we programme accordingly," Karen says.



For her, the best part of the job is that she can see the end result of her work being used by customers, and she has the opportunity to constantly learn new skills.

"When I started with Wellnomics, the software was written in php, and since then we have transitioned to .NET, which I had never used before. So I've enjoyed learning a new programming language."

"Working for a smaller company that really looks after its staff and fosters a team environment is also a bonus. Every week we have someone who comes in to give us shoulder and back massage, we have company lunches, and a really active social club. We are encouraged to continually increase our skills and gain new qualifications, which is great for our ongoing professional development."