

Youth with Disability Award

Emma Paton

Emma saw a gap in the support networks for young deaf people in her area, especially once they had left school, so helped establish a support group—Otago Deaf Youth. This group helps young deaf people to participate in activities they might not usually get the chance to do, and establish support networks. Emma is bi-laterally profoundly deaf. Emma is talented in sports and is ranked as the No.5 woman table tennis player in Otago. At the recent Network Waitaki Sports Awards Emma won the Athlete with a Disability Award and was a finalist in the Sports Person of the Year Award.

“Emma is a wonderful role model for both deaf children and their parents. They see Emma’s achievements and see that the same is achievable for them or their children.”

