

A sound business decision

NOVA Employment works with young people who have a disability.

More than 5000 businesses have made a decision to work with us and provide a job opportunity for a NOVA job seeker. We have scores of testimonials from large and small employers across New South Wales and Queensland. NOVA is a registered charity, but working with us is not an act of charity.

It's a sound business decision made by hundreds of employers every year!

Work is Life Defining!

We ask children 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' We encourage teenagers to study hard and get a good job, and enquire of people we meet 'What do you do?' and, after we have passed away, we are frequently remembered and described by our employment, 'My dad was a butcher', or baker and so on.

People are often judged by their employment and the perceived role that employment gives them in our society. Unemployment can also be defining, and we have a range of names for non-workers – 'dole bludgers' or 'lazy'. These aren't titles that help us to gain friends or participate fully in Australian society.

That's why the work my staff accomplishes is so important. On average, in every working day, NOVA's staff help two people to enter the workforce. For many of them this experience will be their first job. Each person we find work for has a disability, but what employers 'buy' is not the disability, but the skills and abilities of our jobseekers.

In my experience a job applicant with desire and drive beats all other qualifications. I have hired folk with impressive formal qualifications who've struggled to succeed, and many others whose desire to help others overcomes enormous barriers.



Martin Wren
Chief Executive Officer
NOVA Employment
and Training

**This E-Zine will introduce you to some of their successes,
I hope you enjoy them as much as we do.**



Our Values:

- Honesty
- Professionalism
- Integrity
- Respect
- Individual Choice

Thanks to NOVA's Job Club

"Emily's doing a GREAT JOB".

Shareen, Director of Childcare Centre

NOVA's Job Club© is an eight-week preparation for work program. It's run at local High Schools or as an in-house program at NOVA Offices in NSW and Queensland. Job Club is offered to both registered and non-registered NOVA job seekers, and covers practical, physical, and emotional preparation for the world of work.



Like so many other schools across NSW and Queensland, Emily's teachers had recognised the benefits their students would gain from participating in NOVA's Job Club. Emily successfully completed the program, during year 10 and when she wanted to leave school this year she remembered NOVA's support and professionalism and decided to register with our Specialist Employment Service in Hurstville NSW. Emily had always cared for her younger brothers and sisters and it soon became apparent to her Employment Consultant, Layla, that she had a gift for working with children. Layla took the time to listen to Emily's aspirations, assess her abilities and determine her needs. Together they decided that seeking meaningful, long

term employment in a childcare centre would provide Emily with the job of her dreams. As part of NOVA's service, Layla helped Emily to compile and present her resume and implemented a program to improve her interview skills. Their hard work certainly paid off. At the beginning of this year, Emily commenced full time employment in a local childcare centre. NOVA's post placement support policy ensures that Layla now works side-by-side with Emily helping her to learn new tasks and settle into the worksite until she can manage her job independently. We are all proud to hear that Shareen, the Director of the Childcare Centre where Emily is employed feels that....

"Emily is doing a great job".

Having not dealt with NOVA before I was unsure of their process. They advised how they would attend the induction and work side by side with Matt until we and they felt comfortable with his ability to become a productive team member. This promise of support was met and the team at NOVA went over and above the call of duty. I am in regular contact with NOVA regarding Matthew's progress. Matthew has proven to be an ideal employee who has fitted in extremely well. He has worked in both seafood and the delicatessen section and he is always on time, well groomed and ready for work. The whole experience with NOVA and Matthew has been really good and I look forward to looking at any other suitable candidates when we have a need to employ in the future.

Gavin, Store Manager, Woolworths

Gear Up - It's Race Day



NOVA Team - Taree NSW
Left to Right - Sarah Paulson, Carol Quinell,
Rachael Hartley (Branch Manager), Tania
Gilchrist, Front - Paule Jarvis

"In riding a horse we borrow freedom"

Helen Thompson 1943

Friday, 29th February, saw the staff from NOVA Employment's Mid North Coast branch of Taree, NSW, geared up for the local Annual Chamber of Commerce Race Day.

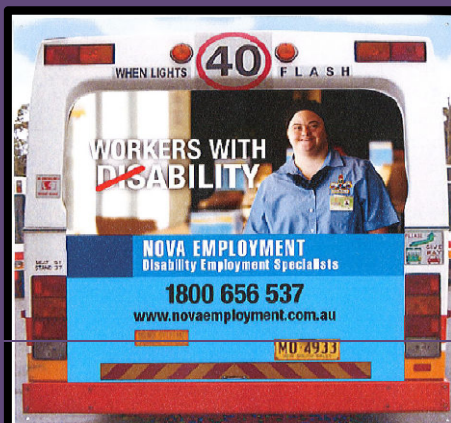
Each year Nova supports a local charity by sponsoring the 'Nova Employment Handicap Race'. Through this sponsorship opportunity NOVA is able to donate a share of the profits to a charity of their choice. This year 'Riding for the Disabled' benefited from the day. Riding for the Disabled is a voluntary, not-for-profit, organisation which provides opportunities for people with a disability of all ages enjoy the safe, stimulating, healthy and therapeutic sport of horse riding.

Although the clouds brought rain, the wet track allowed for some first starters to shine. ...including 'Mr. Mumbles' the horse the staff decided to back on behalf of NOVA's CEO Martin Wren. Although Mr. Mumbles was not the hot favourite, he ran home with his head held high knocking out any sign of competition!

After the 'Nova Handicap' had been run, staff joined V.I.P.'s from the racing industry and business community to present the race trophy. This proved an excellent opportunity to inform everyone present about the important work NOVA Employment does across NSW and south east Queensland. The day was enjoyed by all and staff look forward to next year's event.



Branch Manager Rachael Hartley (right)
with Employment Consultant Sarah
Paulson study the Race Guide



At NOVA our professional staff's mission is to help people with a disability find and keep satisfying jobs of their choice.

Ashley's just AMAZING



An Acquired Brain Injury refers to any type of brain damage that occurs after birth. It can include damage from infection, disease, substance abuse, lack of oxygen or a blow to the head. Around 160 000 Australians are coping with some form of an Acquired Brain Injury with more men affected than women. Most people with an Acquired brain injury can expect to improve with treatment and support. Ashley (pictured above) is an amazing and inspiring young woman. When just sixteen years of age, Ashley was involved in a horse riding accident which caused several bleeds in her brain and resulted in a permanent Acquired Brain Injury.

In Ashley's case her disability means that she has difficulty focusing on tasks and suffers with headaches and it meant that she was unable to complete studies in childcare.

Even after this horrific accident Ashley wanted to ride again and bravely her family supported her decision. Due to NOVA's incredible support and post placement support policy the staff at NOVA Employment Taree NSW were able to assist Ashley to gain an apprenticeship as a Strapper/ Jockey.

From the moment Ashley got back on a horse her beaming smile told the whole story – that she is truly an amazing young woman we can all learn from and be proud of. So one day when you are putting a bet on a horse race, look for a jockey named Ashley and join the dedicated staff at NOVA Employment in being proud of her accomplishments and be inspired by her achievements.

Ashley's work day starts at 4:00am and even includes cleaning the stables, flies and all. Her apprenticeship is going well and each day she overcomes enormous barriers to live her dream.

DisCERNING PEOPLE DON'T
WORRY ABOUT THE **Dis** IN
DisABILITY.
THEY HIRE PEOPLE THAT
DO THE JOB

ASK NOVA EMPLOYMENT: 1800 656 537

NOVA is a **FREE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE** for people with disabilities,
Funded by the Dept. of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.