



Working with Ability

www.novaemployment.com.au

www.novatraining.com.au

www.deafjobs.com.au

www.transition.com.au

Public Forum - Asperger's Spectrum Disorder

NOVA will host a public forum to discuss employment issues and program progress for people with Asperger's Spectrum Disorder

18th February at 7pm
50 Chapel Street St Marys
Bookings Essential Call 1300 Ability

Where to find NOVA

novaemployment.com.au
novatraining.com.au
deafJobs.com.au
transition.com.au
YouTube.com/novaemployment
Facebook.com
Streetcorner.com.au

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C.E.O.'s Comment

The past 12 months have been very exciting for the NOVA team with more people (430+) placed into work than ever before.

What's in store for 2009?

NOVA has some very exciting initiatives under way – apart from placing even more people into work of their choice we intend to expand the range of services we offer and make some extra choices available for NOVA job seekers.

There is a formula for success and here it is:

Numbers of staff x skill level x motivation = results.

How is NOVA going?

We are hiring new staff almost constantly - there are more than 30 extra staff now than in January 2008. Our training team have been working hard to ensure that every member of staff has formal qualifications (Cert IV in Disability Work).

So there's numbers and skill – what about motivation? Our media resource team have made some great improvements in the amount and quality of the promotional material we are sending out (like this E-Zine) that helps spotlight the skills of NOVA's Employment Consultants, our job seekers and workers – it's very motivating for us to share these experiences.

We have the people, skill and desire to make this a remarkable year for highlighting and promoting the ability of the people who are relying on us to find them the opportunities they deserve – I am looking forward to sharing more stories with you as the year progresses.



Martin Wren C.E.O. NOVA Employment

Dear Selina,

Richard and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for ALL of the support that you have provided our son Caine and us over the past three years.

As you may recall we first made contact with you in 2005 whilst Caine was still at High School and not ready for the work place. Nova's assistance in promoting Caine's independence and confidence has been invaluable. You prepared him for his first interview and actually attended it with him and if I remember correctly your relationship with him led someone to think that you were actually his mother!!!!

The joy we all felt when Caine was offered a position, which he didn't hesitate in accepting....

*Once employed the wonderful support continued with you attending the work place, assisting Caine and educating others on Aspergers. You have managed to bridge a gap that Caine has had his entire life and thanks to you he now 'belongs'. As you are aware issues still arise and he still requires support. We are fortunate enough to have the luxury of being able to turn to you knowing that you will always be fair, professional and always an advocate for Caine. Selina from the bottom of our hearts . **THANK YOU & REGARDS Mum & Dad***



Selina McArthur
Branch Manager Richmond

OUR

STARS!

Employee of the Month Cafe 64



Arthur was born in Walgett. He was raised in a large family with 14 brothers and sisters and now has 5 children of his own.

Arthur is hearing impaired. This means that he has very little ability which decreases to detect and understand sound. To improve this condition, Arthur wears a hearing aid which is designed to amplify and modulate sound.

Arthur has now worked at Cafe 64 for the past year. During this time he has adjusted well to his duties which include packing stock, filling fridges and cleaning shop areas. He currently works 4 days a week and says that he loves coming to work. Arthur has made many new friendships at Cafe 64 and says he enjoys working not only for the extra money but because it gives his life purpose.



Nadine came to Nova in 2006 as a referral from the 'Better Futures' program for youth with barriers. Nadine's intellectual disability had made it hard for her at school and she had attempted to reconnect via this program. With Nova's support, Nadine commenced work experience at a local bakery. She worked hard and earned herself a casual position in customer service. With this start Nadine's confidence, self-esteem and skills improved. Being part of a great team whilst supported on the job by Nova professional staff, Nadine was also able to learn new skills and become a valued worker.

Unfortunately this part of Nadine's story did not have a happy ending. Unbeknown to the bakery staff Nova or Nadine, after a year of perfect employment the bakery suddenly closed.



Gia, Nadine and Jess.

Nadine, was down but not out. Together with Jess, Manager of Nova Broken Hill, they decided to make the best of a bad situation. The search began for an new employer who would meet their needs. Nadine needed to work with a supportive team who would understand her, encourage her and most importantly, provide the security and safety she required to blossom .

Nadine started work at Broken Hill Base Hospital a short time later. Extremely nervous, she completed her induction with Jess by her side. Her first day in the laundry with her new manager Gia was a great success. She loved it!

Two years later we celebrate Nadine's future with a sensational job, a great team, a wonderful boss and an entirely new life direction. Nadine is now financially and socially independent. The laundry has provided Nadine with a platform to grow, learn and, most importantly laugh. She has learned new skills and now finds herself working in several other areas of the hospital.

Congratulations Nadine, this month's star of NOVA Broken Hill, for having achieved two years of continuous employment. Acknowledgement also has to go to her sensational Manager Gia and her co-workers.

Jeremy's Great Job!

When Jeremy joined Nova he had worked for several companies for just a few weeks only to find the jobs ended before he had been given the chance to settle in and show the employer what he had to offer.

However, all that was to change when, with the help of Nova, Jeremy met with Suir Excavations and was taken on as a yardsman's assistant.

With Jeremy's background as an active and enthusiastic volunteer fire fighter in the Blue Mountains and the other practical skills such as having his drivers licence and being able to drive a forklift, the position at Suir Excavation has proved to be an excellent job for Jeremy.

In between keeping the yard well-swept and the machines tidy and clean, Jeremy drives the company truck to other Suir sites and picks up supplies from all over Sydney. He also works on doing some motor mechanic repairs. This match between Jeremy and his employer has proved very successful with Jeremy now experiencing the most secure employment he has ever had. This wonderful employer has shown lots of support and humour with Jeremy, helping him to be a part of the Suir team. Jeremy has said that he likes his job and is now saving up for a holiday on the Gold Coast and a new ute.

Finally, Robbie Meade, the Operations Manager says, "Jeremy has been an invaluable addition to the company; punctual, reliable and always ready with a smile and a joke". Nova continues to support Jeremy and Suir with weekly visits.

Transition to Work 2009

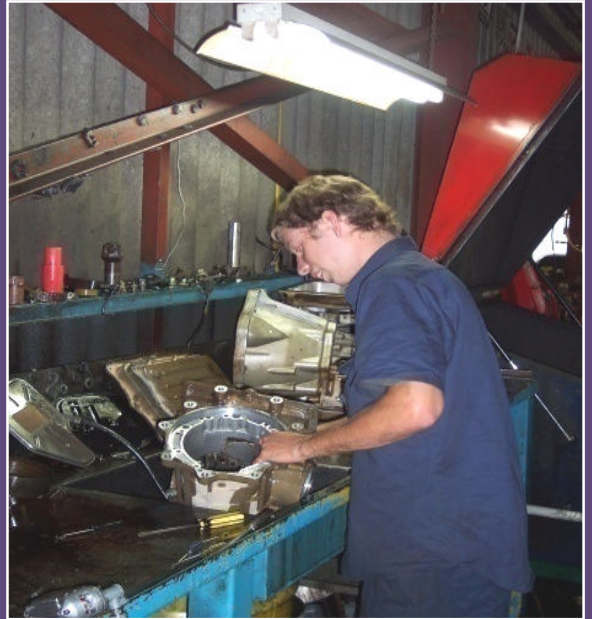


The year has just started and it seems we are in for a HUGE one. We have doubled our student base in numbers and due to this we welcome three additional Job Coaches. This year sees us commencing our new qualification "Certificate 1 in Work Education". Transition has been working on this for a while now and it is great to see it finally come into fruition.

Don't forget to visit our website www.transition.com.au for the outlet near you and/or any further information you require. If the answer to your question is not there please call us on (02) 9833 2511. We look forward to an exciting and busy year and will keep you all informed about the successes and hard work of Transition throughout the year.

Left: Belinda completing work experience at a local child play centre





Phillip, a recent graduate of NOVA's Transition to Work program approached NOVA Employment to help find employment . Phillip has always had a dream to work with motor vehicles. As a child he loved building motor bikes and go-karts. With NOVA's support and expertise, Phillip began work at a transmission and differential specialist in Tuncurry. It's easy to tell Phillip loves his work, you just have to see his smile.
 Ian Johnson, Employment Consultant, Foster



In August 2008, Niki approached NOVA to help her find her dream job. By September 2008, NOVA had done just that! Niki was offered a position at Bunnings. Niki's life had taken a drastic turn in 2002 when she fell and injured her spine. In considerable pain she feared she would never work again. Niki underwent major spinal surgery in 2006, however isolation and loss of movement lead to Niki experiencing depression. Niki's recovery was long and hard. Weekly visits to physio and the local pool helped Niki build her strength . Still her life was missing something that was extremely important to her and her family – employment. Employment meant more than just a pay cheque it meant she was able to get out and meet people again.

With the support of her Employment Consultant, Colleen and Bunning's Operations Manager, Kate, Niki has decided to study horticulture. Planning for the future shows just how positive and tenacious Niki can be. Just recently a customer approached her and said "you've got the best job in the world" and Niki replied "Yes and it's not for sale!"

"From my perspective I feel proud to have been involved in bringing together a great employer that sees past the problems and a great client that moves on from her problems."

Colleen, NOVA Employment Consultant