



July 2011



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QLD

- Beaudesert
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CEO Comment— *Martin Wren*

It's my privilege to represent NOVA at a conference in the United States so I will miss the final days of our "FocusonAbility" film competition (www.focusonability.com.au).

That's a shame because voting looks (again) like going down to the wire with tens of thousands of views and votes already and still a week to go. I am particularly impressed by the international side to this event with voters presently drawn from nearly 50 countries and these voters making an important contribution to the final outcome.

We are also making progress on a number of other parts of our program with staff meetings and forums designed to improve service delivery taking up a large part of this month. Our Transition to Work team looked impressive as did our team of post placement support workers with every member of both groups enthusiastically supporting our believe that any person that truly wants to work, regardless of their disability, can find their niche.



Separately I have spoken extensively about future plans for disability employment services on NOVA's home page and through my blog. Present government policy ignores the needs of job seekers, threatens the strength and viability of disability employment services within Australia and is, at best, ill considered.

If you disagree I welcome your comments (you can use my blog). Your support for resistance is also appreciated as this isn't progress, its madness.

That means they'll probably go ahead!

Michael's perfect job match- *Grace Kelly*

Some NOVA links

Watch our latest video on NOVA's Youtube channel



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What's news at Can-Do-Ability?



Michael came to NOVA Employment after being unemployed for 19 years. He had done some volunteer work for the Kings Cross Bikers club for nearly 10 years and enjoyed giving and helping the community. Michael took on board all the advice he was given by NOVA in relation to interview preparation and personal presentation so when he secured an interview with The Salvation Army – Salvos Stores through NOVA Employment, he performed well and got the job. The position involves customer service, dealing with stock and maintaining a tidy store.



Michael showed enthusiasm and had a can-do attitude from his first day of employment. He was eager to get along with all his colleagues and to learn all he had to know to be a productive worker. Because of his enthusiasm towards his duties and positive attitude, Michael is now a very valued employee and colleague and is seen as one of the best employees on the Salvos team. His manager says they are impressed with Michael's performance and his respect for the rest of the team. Salvos Stores have decided to make Michael a permanent employee, which Michael is delighted about.

Michael is very satisfied with his job and loves the working life, he says the job suits him 'to the T'. He is still working for a charity and helping the community but he is now getting paid for it. He enjoys the friendliness of his team mates and is happy to hear the positive feedback he has received on his performance. Michael has been able to save for a holiday at Christmas to visit his family and meet his grand niece for the first time in New Zealand; he also is looking forward to making his apartment more homely with his extra earnings.



Michael's family have noticed a major difference in Michael since he secured his position. They say that they are 'elated' about the whole situation and can even hear a difference in Michael's voice over the phone. We wish Michael the very best for his future employment with the Salvos, by the looks of it, it's going to be for the long haul.

Tim - Another Transition to Work Success

My name is Tim and I completed the Transition to Work program run by NOVA Employment. I have found it to be of great assistance in gaining my current job. I have been working for a company for almost 6 months now. I am working in the



office, I enjoy working here and have learnt so much in my role. I have learnt a new computer program and am keeping the company records up to date. NOVA has assisted me in each step of my learning curve, from leaving school in year 12 to attending the TTW program. Learning about all aspects of what is expected by employers and how to be the best worker that I can be.

Thank you Nova for all your help.

Stephanie- Making the most of NOVA's TTW Program

My experience with the NOVA Transition program has been amazing. When I started at NOVA I had no direction on where I wanted to go with my life. NOVA TTW has helped me to find my way. This is the NOVA Transition program through my eyes:

I started TTW in January 2010 and the first day I felt like I belonged there because everyone that was in the program was so welcoming towards me and I felt like this is where I should be. Transition had given me a purpose for my life. They showed me how to do my resume and covering letter to be able to apply for a job. They showed me how to fill out forms for Centerlink, they showed me how to deal with a bad situation at work with bad customers, they showed me how to cook and look after myself when I move out and how to budget my money.

This program has changed my life for all the right reasons, it has done an amazing job for me. I could not have asked for a better experience with NOVA, this program and the experiences that I had will be unforgettable to me and the people that I have met while I was there will stay with me forever.

This is the best program if you don't know what to do with your life. You will be amazed at how amazing you will feel when you start to meet new people and all the amazing new friends that you will make, you will take with you for the rest of your life, and the amazing experiences that you will have with this group of people, it will be something that will always stay with you forever.

Then from the transition program I went to an employment consultant that led me into job seeking and taking me to job interviews and showing me the best way to answer the interview questions and also showed me how to conduct myself at the interview. My employment consultant also came with me when I had the interview at the job that I am in now.

When I got the job I got support from my employment consultant as well as the whole office being very supportive of me through the whole experience of the first job jitters. They also explained to me the award wage that I was going to start getting as well as what I was to going to get out of the job.

The on the job support that I got from them was a great relief, as I had the most amazing support and it was great knowing what ever happened, there was always someone there for me .

The transition program was the best thing that happened to me. If it wasn't for this program I wouldn't have the job that I have today and I would never have become the person that I am today.

So thank you NOVA and the transition program.

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