

# Search for worker was child's play

By Callan Lawrence

PEOPLE who run their own businesses will often tell others "it's hard to find good help" but Kidabout Playland owner Chandelle Mallett is more than happy with at least one of her employees.

For reasons of her own, Ms Mallett wanted to employ someone who might be considered less fortunate than herself.

She turned to Nova Employment Services who introduced her to a young woman with an intellectual disability and a smile that warmed her heart.

Belinda Harvey, 20, now works three days a week at St Marys Kidabout Playland and her employer couldn't be happier.

"She is a pleasure," Ms Mallett said. "Always smiling,

"Nothing is ever too much for her to do.

"She is very good with everyone.

"Little kids will come up to her while she is cleaning and she will play with them and get them involved.

"She has an excellent disposition with children."

And Belinda is equally as enthusiastic about her duties.

"I make sure everyone has what they need," she said.

"I like making the party rooms look nice with party balloons."

Ms Harvey's disability was a major barrier until she completed the Transition to Work program with Nova Employment.

The training gave her the skills and confidence she needed to

enter the workforce.

Then when ready to make the transition, Ms Harvey's support worker, Rebecca Morris, took her to Kidabout Playland where she continues to provide both employee and employer support.

"Belinda is a good success story for Transition to Work," Ms Morris said.

"I enjoy seeing her complete her tasks and get excited.

"The kids get really excited about their jobs and being independent."

Nova Employment Services is looking for businesses who would like to employ someone with a disability.

For further details phone 9833 2500.



Perfect fit: Kidabout Playland owner Chandelle Mallett and employee Belinda Harvey.

Picture: Gene Ramirez