

## Longevity is the aim

'I can't imagine the place without him. I've had workers come and go but Daniel's committed. He's like family now.'

These words from Mick Wasson, co-owner at Wasson Engineering Plastics



in Penshurst, are music to NOVA's Employment's ears. It means we've completed the perfect job match and supported the worker and staff to ensure long-term employment of a valuable employee.

Daniel Di Cristo started working as a machine operator at Wasson when he was 24. Sixteen years later he's advanced his career with a TAFE Certificate III in Process Manufacturing and is now earning above award wage.

During this time, Daniel has seen technology develop and has a good knowledge of the machinery. 'I like working with all the products and the robots,' Daniel says. 'The robots make my job easier. They're fun to watch and learn about.'

And he reckons he'd continue working at Wasson even if he didn't get paid a cent. While we admire his passion and commitment, we won't be encouraging that!

Longevity is a theme at Wassons. The family business opened in 1958 and has expanded while competing with cheaper, low-quality overseas products, incorporating a management structure and keeping up with latest practices.

Mick recommends other local businesses consider employing someone with disability. 'Daniel is living proof that a person with a disability can be an integral part of an organisation. He's always punctual, rarely takes a sick day and is highly reliable.'



#### International sharing of wisdom

I was privileged to attend the '1st World Conference on Supported Employment' in Belfast. I've come away with one very clear thought: there's no need to make excuses for Australian Disability Employment Services, which are as good as, if not better than, any around the world.

Many commentators put down the efforts of the thousands of dedicated and skilled workers in this industry. The facts show a different story. While there is room for improvement, we offer a consistent approach across our nation, using up-to-date thinking and service-delivery models to achieve first class outcomes in terms of the range of roles, hours worked and wages earned.

We have unashamedly pinched the best ideas from around the world to further improve our own service. And I can tell you that our international 'cousins' are doing the same.

Martin Wren, CEO NOVA Employment martin.wren@novaemployment.com.au



### **SORTED!**

# Traineeships and Apprenticeships – that's where it's at!

Donna Baxter knows a thing or two about traineeships and apprenticeships. In the past 18 months, she and her team at NOVA Ingleburn have placed 30% of their job seekers into these positions. With these jobs comes more commitment from both the employer and the employee, which is good for everyone.

'NOVA works with employers to find suitable candidates that add value to their business,' Donna says. 'We save employers money through covering the hiring and interview process, completing workplace coaching, and liaising with both parties to ensure a productive worker. NOVA continues to support both the employer and employee for many years into the future.'

Traineeships and apprenticeships provide many benefits to employers, other than gaining long-term employees. The employee learns about the business from the bottom up. There are great initiative schemes available. As well, the general community views this long-term dedication to local youth as a valuable contribution to society, which does no harm to your reputation.

Speaking of reputation, here's what just one of our satisfied employers has to say about employing an apprentice through NOVA.

'I am now recommending all other business owners meet with NOVA and discuss future placements in their businesses. It's a great way to boost productivity while promoting a culture of diversity and inclusion in the work place.' Ken O'Keith – Ultimate Suspension





## **ROLL UP, ROLL UP!**

### Do we have an event for you!

The first employer to email their interest receives two tickets to the Archibald Private Dinner on 2 August, 2017. This event includes a 3-course meal and private tour of the exhibition by award-winning artists.

To win, be the first to email <a href="mailto:terry.whitehead@novaemployment.com.au">terry.whitehead@novaemployment.com.au</a>



If you hire through NOVA in July, you go into the draw for tickets to the rugby in late August.

Congratulations to our June winners!

An employer from a new service area (Tahmoor) is off to the Rabbitohs vs Bulldogs on 10 August at ANZ Stadium.

Congratulations MckenzieCarrick Paramedical Centre!