



August 2012

# SHORT FILM COMPETITION

## "FOCUS ON ~~DISABILITY~~"

# \$50,000 CASH AND PRIZES

visit [focusonability.com.au](http://focusonability.com.au)

### NOVA OFFICES

#### NSW

- Bankstown
- Blacktown
- Bourke
- Broken Hill
- Camden
- Campbelltown
- Canterbury
- Caringbah
- Cobar
- Forster
- Hurstville
- Ingleburn
- Katoomba
- Penrith
- Port Macquarie
- Richmond
- Rockdale
- Rouse Hill
- Springwood
- St Marys
- Taree
- Windsor

#### QLD

- Beaudesert
- Beenleigh
- Logan

## CEO Comment— *Martin Wren*

*August has been a very exciting month for us with some really good placement results (well over 80 new job starts) in such a broad range of roles. People often ask me, 'what sort of work can people with disability do?' and my answer is A-Z of business operations from front desk to back office, accounts clerk to zoo assistant.*

I have also said, 'we've never placed a pilot' – that's no longer true!

So, now whenever I am asked I will have to think of a new role we haven't filled previously – right now that's got me stumped so I may just have to say that experience has taught me there's pretty much no role that one of our 2400 job seekers couldn't handle.

The other question we get fairly often relates to ensuring that premises and equipment used by workers are appropriate for their disability and accessible for employees.



Here's the great news; if you need modifications to the workplace or adaptive technology to become or remain a worker there is every chance in the world that the equipment is available and (drum roll!) it won't cost you a cent!!

Well done government and, if you would like to know more, give your local NOVA office a call.

## Let's Get Working Special Edition

By Martha Siede

### Some NOVA links

Watch our latest video on NOVA's Youtube channel



Become a fan of NOVA on Facebook. Recommend us to your friends.



What's news at Can-Do-Ability?



Want some great employment tips?



Check out our short film competition.



### How to Get and Keep a Job

Lots of people are coming to NOVA, and to assist the number wanting to come to NOVA, but can't, we have put together this program to guide people in finding their own employment. Those that may just need a bit of a hand and some support.

### Who is the program for?

Anyone, but primarily those with a disability, who have access to a computer

### When does the program start and what is its duration?

18th September and runs for 6-8 weeks.

### How will this program help someone with a disability?

#### We will look at:

- \* Career identification
- \* What makes a good resume and how do we promote ourselves?
- \* Interview skills - How to beat out the competition?
- \* Resources available to you at no cost - need a hand to look over your resume, do photocopying & provide stamps.
- \* Disclosure of disability - mental illness keep quiet or tell?
- \* Breaking down barriers on employing people with a disability/ overcome myths
- \* We will look at barriers and overcome them, such as, inertia (not doing anything) We want to improve job seeking and help you gain employment.
- \* By equipping you with job seeking tools and tips like:
  - \* How to market yourself
  - \* Cold calling
  - \* Networking
  - \* Resumes
  - \* Cover letters
  - \* Interview skills

### How do I participate?

Simply go to [www.letsgetworking.com.au](http://www.letsgetworking.com.au) on the 18th September and begin. If you have any questions please contact Martha via [info@letsgetworking.com.au](mailto:info@letsgetworking.com.au) or on (02) 9833 2500.



## Lyndon- Cooking first class Tucker

By Paule Jarvis

*Lyndon Stewart is a young Yuin man achieving his dream: to work professionally with Aussie Bush Tucker. Creating signature dishes and gaining the ability to bring to his people, a better understanding of their Bush Tucker Heritage.*

Lyndon's barriers to employment included a learning disability, depression, back injury and little self confidence. Through the support and guidance of Lyndon's Employment Consultant (EC), Heather Smith, Lyndon overcame his barriers.

Lyndon's job choice was Chef at the Tuncurry Bowling Club, having worked there previously, he felt comfortable in that environment. On his behalf, Heather contacted management at the Tuncurry Bowling Club. However, there had been previous issues.

After heavy negotiations with Tuncurry Bowling Club Management, Lyndon resumed employment, undertaking kitchen hand duties. After intensive Post Placement Support, then weekly ongoing support, Lyndon was offered a Chef's Apprenticeship.

His EC, Heather assisted Lyndon by linking him into the TAFE Disability Support Unit where he received additional support.

Lyndon is now in second year as an apprentice chef with the Sail Away Brasserie at the Tuncurry Bowling Club. He currently receives assistance from NOVA Tuncurry's support worker Lyn Leonard.

Lyndon says he loves his job and his proudest moment was when he was awarded a High Distinction for his Seafood Section at the Port Macquarie TAFE.

Kylie Prodger, Assistant Manager with the Bowling Club said today, Lyndon is their first Indigenous Chef and they have witnessed his growth from a juvenile to the family man he is today. They are very proud of his progress.

Heather says Lyndon's Signature Dish, the one he receives the most complimentary requests for, is his Seafood Risotto.

Since recommencing employment, Lyndon has become engaged, gained his driving licence and become a proud father.

Lyndon stated he would like to extend a big thank you to Tuncurry Bowling Club Management, NOVA Employment, Heather and Lyn. Without whose support and faith in him his success would not have been possible.



# WHY 'NOT' TO CHOOSE NOVA Transition

By Megan Elliott

*It is that time of the year again when Year 12 students are getting ready to embark on the next phase of their life and anxious parents are wondering what is ahead for their now young adults.*

Letters are starting to arrive from the Department of Aging, Disability and Home Care, (AHDC) offering funding packages to their Post School Program Transition to Work, and an endless list of organisations to choose from.

The last few weeks and months parents have been reading, researching, visiting these services, each of which have differing packages to offer parents and recent school leavers.

For those who will receive Transition to Work (TTW) funding, parents have been given the "choose us" speech from every Transition employee from every company. Some of you even from me...

So I thought I would make things clear and state the 6 main reasons you should NOT choose the Nova Transition to Work Program.

1. Do not choose NOVA Transition if you are looking for a 2 year extension of school... At NOVA Transition, we expect each young person to work hard to get ready for work. That's why we call them trainees, rather than students.
2. Do not choose NOVA Transition if you aren't serious about getting a job. NOVA Transition works in conjunction with NOVA Employment to ensure that every young person in our program has the best opportunity to work in an industry of their choice in their local area.
3. Do not choose NOVA if you are looking for a similar environment to school. NOVA Transition runs in NOVA working offices, amongst NOVA Employment Consultants and Support Workers. Our Trainees practice work through practical work experience placements, and get out and about in the community, learning about the world of work and what it is to have a working lifestyle.
4. Do not choose NOVA Transition if you do not want to do work experience. We have an extensive work experience program where trainees try at least 6 different industries and we find real work in real companies.
5. Do not choose NOVA if you don't want your work to count towards a nationally recognised qualification. NOVA Transition participants are working towards a Cert 1 in Work Education.'
6. Do not choose NOVA Transition if you don't care about a well run program. NOVA Transition is one of the largest Transition to work programs in NSW, and participants have direct access to the expertise of a Disability Employment Service, that is Australian owned, 22 years in the industry, with a strong advocacy focus on the employability of people with a disability. NOVA cultivates a high profile within the community through extensive TV and radio advertising, so that participants in any of our programs will get the best possible chance of working with a great employer in their local community.

NOVA Transition supports recent school leavers get ready for work and then helps them get into work, and we do it well. If this is what you are looking for then I hope this helps in making your decision a little clearer. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact myself or anyone of us in the Transition to Work team and we will be only too happy to assist in any way we can.

Meg - TTW Program Coordinator M: 0414 322 911 Office: 02 9833 2511

**Head Office**  
50 Chapel St  
St Marys NSW 2760  
Ph: 02 9833 2500  
Fax: 02 9833 2499

**NOVA.**  
EMPLOYMENT

[www.novaemployment.com.au](http://www.novaemployment.com.au)



novaemployment.com.au  
Ph: 02 9833 2500  
Fax: 02 9833 2499



novatraining.com.au  
Ph: 02 9833 2511  
Fax: 02 9833 2499



transition.com.au  
Ph: 02 9833 2500  
Fax: 02 9833 2499



deafjobs.com.au  
Ph: 02 4625 7888  
Fax: 02 4625 5955  
TTY: 02 4625 8395