

# 100 JOBS IN 100 DAYS

Macarthur businesses back a more inclusive workforce for our future.

The room of over 70 Macarthur business owners fell silent as 20-year-old Mount Hunter resident Juan Garcia spoke at the launch of NOVA Employment's "100 jobs in 100 days" campaign. Garcia enjoys horticulture and happens to live with disability, but that wasn't what people noticed. It was his passion for plants and gardening that was most evident as he spoke with launch MC, Nova manager David Budd, about his talents and search for work.

The lunch event was held on Wednesday, 17 May at Campbelltown Catholic Club. Young jobseekers with disability from Camden, Narellan, Fairfield, Liverpool, Ingleburn, Wollondilly and Campbelltown gathered to dine with potential employers in the Macarthur area.

As they broke bread and got to know one another – in what seemed a revolutionary way of finding employees – guests heard from the CEO and co-founder of NOVA Employment Martin Wren about NOVA's history in the Macarthur area dating back to 1992.

Eleven people with barriers spoke about their dreams of working in administration, hospitality, warehousing and cleaning. Some were hearing impaired, one had Asperger's and others had intellectual disabilities. The jobseekers sat alongside local family-owned businesses including Contempo Furniture in Minto, BlueBeard Joinery in Prestons and Advanced Kids Early Learning Centre in Heckenburg. Across the room sat another eager jobseeker, chatting with a Global 500 company employer from Daimler Group's Mercedes Benz Australia/Pacific dealership.

West's Tigers COO Ryan Webb and footy legend and club ambassador, John Skandalis, dined together with three ClubsNSW representatives. Skandalis shared his personal story of overcoming the challenges he has faced both on and off the field. ClubsNSW manager – policy and government, Anthony Trimarchi, reinforced ClubsNSW's pledge to offer more

roles to people with disability, encouraging member clubs to do the same. Trimarchi invited business owners to read and apply advice from the publication *Part of the Club: A Guide to Creating an Inclusive Club Industry*, which is available online at [www.clubsns.com.au/our-industry/the-club-industry/inclusion](http://www.clubsns.com.au/our-industry/the-club-industry/inclusion).

Following Garcia's heartfelt plea for a job outdoors, the crowd learned about how NOVA operates. Wren explained that NOVA visits high schools and works with teachers who best know the talents of these young future taxpayers. "The quicker these jobseekers are employed, the quicker they become taxpayers and start contributing rather than depending on society," said Wren, emphasising one of the core messages of the day.

School leavers, many of whom have completed their HSC, enter Nova's Transition to Work Program where they learn CV writing, professional etiquette, phone and interview skills and gain valuable work experience before a job-matching and placement process begins.

Jacinta Maas, owner of JLM Conveyancing in Camden, knows what it's like to have a person with disability on staff, and sang high praise for NOVA's perfect job-match with office clerk Priya Prasa. "Priya is a dedicated and reliable employee," said Maas. "In the nine months she's been working for us she's exceeded our expectations." Priya was not the only one to impress Maas, who has been in business in Macarthur for 19 years – NOVA Employment has also earned her respect. "Now we know the support we get from NOVA. Not only for the employee, but for us too. We are so happy we're looking to hire a second administrative assistant for our team," said Maas.

After reading about jobseeker Natasha in one of the client bios provided on every table, NOVA business partner and owner of Bar Centrale on Queen in Campbelltown, Sonya Moulang, thought Natasha would make an excellent real estate associate. Moments after

reading that Natasha had a Cert III in Business Administration and a Certificate of Registration in Real Estate, the two were introduced.

NOVA Employment general manager Anne Goyer announced the organisation's expansion to the Southern Highlands, with four new offices in Tahmoor, Bowral, Yass and Goulburn opening later this month. She encouraged guests to participate in the international 2017 Focus on Ability Short Film Festival. Winning entries share \$140,000 in cash and prizes. Entries close 30 June and guests were invited to vote at [www.focusonability.com.au](http://www.focusonability.com.au).

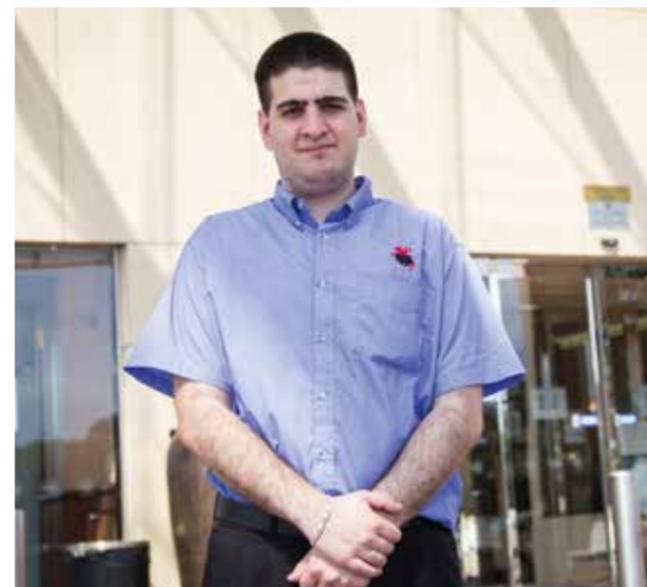
Macarthur MP Dr Mike Freelander encouraged business owners to give the jobseekers in the room a "fair go", just as they would do for someone without disability. And in between guest speakers and films, attendees were entertained with a performance by former NOVA client and accomplished clarinettist Stephen Shiels.

Before the tables were cleared and guests said their goodbyes, almost half the jobseekers had met a potential employer with a suitable role that matched their skills. Garcia had doors open for him in horticulture while 30-year-old Johnathan, who's been looking for work for over a year, landed a work trial with Mercedes Benz Macarthur the next day after hitting it off with service manager Chris Ferry. By knock-off time, Johnathan was offered a full-time position as a car detailer!

NOVA Employment thanks Andrew Lawson, owner of *Flowers on Queen St* in Campbelltown and *Posh Plants* for their kind support of the campaign. ♣

**Is your business looking for reliable staff with on-going support for employee and employer? Contact 1 300 ABILITY or 1 300 224 5489 to reach a local NOVA employment manager in your area. NOVA can help your business and together work to reach the goal of "100 jobs in 100 days" in Macarthur!**

## NOVA CANDIDATES WORKING IN NSW CLUBS



■ Adam works as a kitchen hand at St George Leagues Club.



■ Breannon works as an apprentice chef at Miranda RSL.



■ Kylie works at Richmond Club as a bar attendant.



■ Kieran works at Springwood Country Club as a bar attendant.