



February 2013

WANT EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITY

NOVA EMPLOYMENT

PH: 1300 ABILITY



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

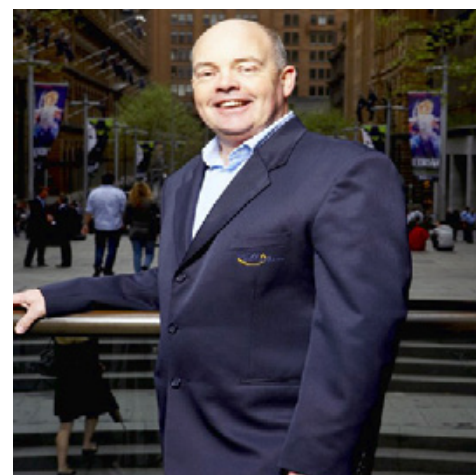
Martin Wren

It's a sad time at NOVA as we have to say goodbye to many of our staff and to far more of our terrific job seekers. As a result of the recent disability employment service tender NOVA no longer operates in Broken Hill, the mid north coast of NSW, Queensland and 2 of our Sydney sites.

Why the change?

Our masters in government say it is so job seekers can have access to better services. Job seekers however, didn't get much say in whether they stayed or went or to whom they must now report. On Monday 4th March employers across Australia will be waking up to find the disability employment service they chose to work with has been taken from them (along with their right to choose) and folk they don't know and didn't choose will now work with their staff.

For many that will be just fine and for



people with more profound barriers to work this is a disaster. Already several of our workers have lost their jobs and the contract 'cheats' are already working out how to beat the funding bodies checking mechanisms.

If you check NOVA's home page you'll see stories about the ways in which the system can now be abused and the stories of the lives this affects.

I promise next month will be good news only!

Stories from TTW Blue Mountains (Katoomba & Springwood)

Guest Speaker from Rural Fire Service

Beautiful Blue Mountains World Heritage area is prone to bushfire disasters especially in the summer season. We wanted the trainees to learn and become AWARE not SCARED about the area they live in and in particular, bushfires and its effects on families in the mountains. With this in mind, Job Coaches got together and invited the Blue Mountains Rural Fire Service to come in to speak and educate us.



6th Feb 2013 we had the pleasure of inspector Paul McGrath, coming into Springwood TTW as a guest speaker from the Rural Fire Service. Paul was interesting and got all the trainees participating in the discussions. He brought the bush fire issues home to everyone! Here are some of the things we learnt from the guest speaker: - that Blue Mountains is the most bushfire prone area in the world; that over 75% of homes in the mountains back into the bush; that there is about 75,000-80,000 people in the area of Blue Mountains; that there are about 48,000 homes in the Blue Mountains; that there are ONLY 62 fire trucks available (that's why they CAN'T save all homes in a fire emergency). We even learnt that baking powder used in cooking is excellent in putting fires out in the kitchen. How about that!!!

Paul talked a lot about fire safety education promotion, building and promoting community resilience and a relocation plan as the main factors in saving lives during fire emergency.

Paul went through the processes involved in obtaining paid employment with the RFS, career path and training.

An added bonus to the day was watching the Springwood and Katoomba trainees get along, work with each other and communicate building on their teamwork skills.

Trainees Learning and Connecting with Industry

From a training point of view, trainees had the opportunity to develop and write questions for the guest speaker. Some of their questions included:

1. What is the different between Hazard Reduction and Back-burn?
2. Explain to us about back draft...
3. What are statistics on workplace fire hazards?
4. Let's discuss strategies on workplace fire safety?
5. How to determine what fire extinguisher to use, in what fire?

Springwood 1st YEAR Trainees at Work Placement

• Chris at IGA Springwood, Macquarie Rd

Chris says, "Having worked at both COLES and now at IGA, I now understand the difference between large and small retail outlets".



• Eden at COLES Winmalee

Eden says, "I love working with my supervisor, Lorraine. She really helps me".

• Joshua at IGA, Springwood Macquarie Rd

Joshua says, "There are a lot of guys at work I went to school with and they are like, supervisors."



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?



DIGITAL STORYTELLING

Martha Siede

Jane approached NOVA Employment to see if there were some willing participants who would like to do her workshop and create a Digital Story. For the past 3 Wednesday's, clients, Sophie Mitchell, Linley Kaminski and myself, Martha Siede, met with Jane Tanner to create some digital stories.



Jane Tanner is a Doctorate of Education student at Wollongong University researching workplace narratives.

Digital storytelling is a powerful narrative tool by which people can tell and share their stories.

Jane's research is on how businesses recruit and retain people who have a disability, and in this particular case Jane research was from the other side, the effects on those individuals seeking to obtain and maintain a position in a workplace.

As a Doctoral student, Jane is required to write and present papers at relevant conferences. There is a major international conference in Turkey this year that Jane will be presenting our stories in.

Sophie, Linley and myself found the workshop fun, interesting, informative and educational. Working with Jane was a blast and we are all pleased with the end result of great digital stories. You can view our digital stories here:

Linley - <http://youtu.be/ZvTapGivlyYv>
Sophie - <http://youtu.be/JHI5KjQRmm8>
Martha - http://youtu.be/19GTAT_QtQ8

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