



February 2014



CEO Comment

Martin Wren

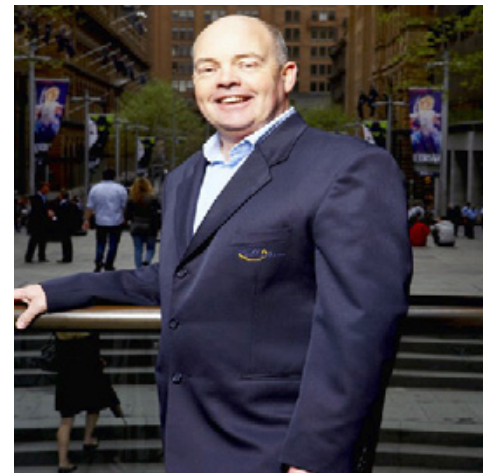
A great start to the New Year, dozens of new taxpayers, some really exciting opportunities for NOVA and for people interested in promoting the ability and skills of people who have a disability.

February has seen a large number of new job starts and, something that is particularly exciting for me, a large number of Apprenticeships and Traineeships.

Why are these important?

Starting a job that also has a formal training component can help ensure a job for life. Learning while you earn provides a dual incentive; you are investing in your future and you get to pay your bills – that has to be the winning combination.

If you are a person that has a disability, beware! Employment programs may be able to make a claim from the government while only offering you as little as 8hours work per week! That's not going to pay the bills, isn't going to lead to better things and won't help you in the long term.



Apprenticeships and Traineeships however, give a real chance to become a very valued part of a team, earn a pretty good income and hold out the prospect of long term employment.

I recently received a letter from a young woman whose traineeship (her words), 'saved my life'!

It's easy to get depressed when you are unemployed. It's equally easy when you are under-employed.

Make sure your employment specialist is looking for as much work as you want and can handle and don't let anyone talk you down.

NOVA OFFICES

- Camden
- Campbelltown
- Caringbah
- Engadine
- Hurstville
- Ingleburn
- Katoomba
- Penrith
- Richmond
- Rockdale
- Rouse Hill
- Springwood
- St Marys
- Windsor

A Huge month in Hurstville!

By Leisha Distefano

WOW!! What a busy time it's been in NOVA Hurstville!

Transition to Work Hurstville kicked off February with a celebration of the Chinese New Year by hosting a morning tea for our Employment Service, a couple of our local Work Placement hosts and Rockdale TTW.



The trainees prepared some Chinese style treats as well as some traditional Western snacks and nibbles.

It was a great opportunity for the Hurstville trainees to meet and get to know our neighbouring Rockdale Job Coach and peers.

A massive part of February has also been the Hurstville outlet's involvement in the latest NOVA Employment campaign '100 Jobs in 90 Days'.

Our outlet held a special afternoon tea for the Minister of Ageing and Disability Services, The Hon John Ajaka MP, as well as our Liberal area representative Mark Coure MP.

Our local newspaper and our resident photographer Lucas Kraus were on hand to snap some pics at our well attended event.

We heard inspirational testimonies from employers who have hired staff through NOVA, as well as from our clients whose lives have been changed by becoming employed and becoming a tax-payer.

Our event was a great success and it was also a fabulous opportunity for some networking and further exposure for what NOVA achieves for people with disabilities.

February has also seen the introduction of making a small step towards healthier eating for not only the Employment Service, but also TTW.

Our outlet manager organised for a box of fruit to be delivered to our outlet on a weekly basis to be available for all of us to snack on! Thank you, Carol for the great idea!



It has been a huge hit with all of us here.

And lastly – a little word about Hurstville's Transition program for 2014.

This year Hurstville has 12 trainees: Six first years and 6 second years.

For the first time in two years we have two female trainees enrolled in the program! How nice to have some 'pink' in the room!

So far all the trainees are getting along like the proverbial house on fire [which reminds me that we should have our annual NSW Fire Brigade visit coming up soon!] and our 'cross over' day on Wednesday is a very rambunctious and rowdy day with everyone having so much to say to each other!

Our trainees' employment goals are of a wide variety including, administration, personal trainer, pastry chef and mechanic!

2014 is going to be very interesting indeed and we're all looking forward to a busy and successful year ahead!

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?



Employment plan runs on time

ST GEORGE & SUTHERLAND SHIRE
Leader

By Tamara Gasser

IF YOU have a disability the latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicate you are 30 per cent less likely to be working than a person without a disability.

But these statistics are shifting says Nova Employment, the non-profit organisation committed to providing job opportunities to those with a disability.

NOVA chief executive Martin Wren was joined by Disability Services Minister John Ajaka and Oatley MP Mark Coure at Nova's Hurstville office in support of the Focus on Ability campaign, which is headed by the Leader.

The campaign seeks to secure 100 jobs for St George and Sutherland Shire residents with a disability in 90 days from January 1.

Already 38 jobs have been created, with about six weeks left to meet the quota.

Minster Ajaka urged employers to hire people with a disability.

"There is an unfair perception and an unjustified belief that a person with a disability will not be able to perform in a job, but the stats show the opposite," he said.

"The employers I speak to continuously tell me their best employers are often people with a disability."

Colin Benson is one such employer.

He owns Walkers Party Hire in Peakhurst and employs three Nova Employment clients.

"They've been great; good at what they do and very enthusiastic and some of the nicest guys we have working for us," Mr Benson said.

"When you have a small business you are the HR department, and Nova can take on that role for you and bring people around and give them a start."

Declan Kelly, 19, has Asperger syndrome. He completed a transition to work program with Nova Employment last year.

"Straight from school I came here and they taught me interview skills and got me this job," he said.

Mr Kelly now works for the Royal NSW Bowling Association.

<http://www.theleader.com.au/story>

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