

Working with Ability



NOVA Locations

- * St Marys
- * Penrith
- * Richmond
- * Katoomba
- * Blacktown
- * Hurstville
- * Caringbah
- * Campbelltown
- * Taree
- * Forster
- * Port Macquarie
- * Logan
- * Broken Hill
- * Walgett

Link to our websites:

[NOVA Employment](#)

[NOVA Training](#)

[Transition to Work](#)

[Facebook](#)

C.E.O. Comment

Nobody say anything!

We are in the middle of a global financial crisis and to listen to some sections of the media things are about as bad as they've ever been and the only comfort we can take is that things are going to get worse!

Please don't tell my staff.

This month has been another bumper for NOVA with dozens of people starting work – April and May were pretty good and March was the best month for placements in the history of the program. If things keep on in a similar fashion sometime in August we will have placed as many people in the first 8 months of this year as we did in the whole of 2008.

I don't want to jinx it so no-one say a thing!

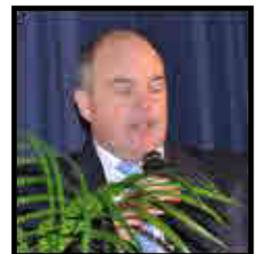
In the meantime we will continue to promote the ability of the 1300 or so people with disability that are presently registered with us. We'll keep on telling local employers the value of this resource and we will keep up our promotion of their achievements.

Why are things going so well?

One of the really good things about working in a not-for-profit is that we are able to devote a larger part of our budget to promotion and also to the training of our staff. So we have a highly skilled team supported by an extensive advertising program and we are fortunate in that in every area where NOVA operates we have been able to identify savvy business men and women who can spot a good deal – you see, employing a person with a disability isn't an act of charity, it's sound business sense.

That's why we prosper.

Martin Wren CEO NOVA Employment and Training



Federal Minister meets Holly



Federal Minister Debussé, Holly, Marianne Bate Carmel Wren

Federal Member for Macquarie recently met with Holly Brown who has embarked on a hospitality traineeship at the Family Hotel, Katoomba. "Holly is a terrific example of why employing a person with a disability makes good sense.... It provides meaningful work for the individual and keen, reliable staff for employers".

"Organisations like NOVA Employment can help employers make this choice and contribute towards a more socially inclusive society", Mr Debussé said.

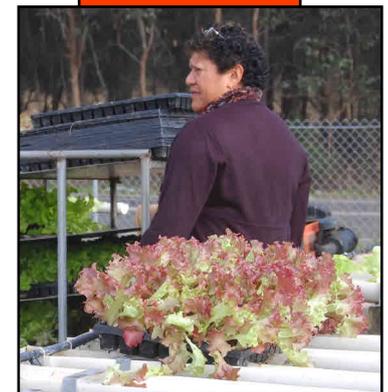
DISABILITY SERVICES AND JOBS - Extract from Parliament

Hansard papers 3rd June 2009 (Page: 48)

Ms MARIE ANDREWS: My question is directed to the Minister for Disability Services. What action is the Government taking to help provide jobs for people with a disability?

Mr PAUL LYNCH: A key element in a person's identity is often their job, their profession, the work they do. Employment is a central element in a person's inclusion in our society. It has a positive effect on a person's health, their wellbeing and their sense of belonging. To assist the social inclusion of young people with a disability the State Government funds non-government organisations to provide post-school programs. In particular, the Department of Disability, Ageing and Home Care funds the Community Participation Program and the Transition to Work program.

The Transition to Work program aims particularly to improve employment results for school leavers. It assists young people with a disability develop skills to increase their independence and to participate more fully in our community. The program has been highly successful. The outcomes for young people who left school in 2005 and completed their two-year Transition to Work program in 2007 showed that of the 462 young people who participated in the program, 252 gained a job or undertook further education to enhance their skills.... The State Plan target is to close the gap in the unemployment rate between people with a disability and the overall community by 50 per cent by 2016. That is equivalent to around 6,000 jobs. Half of that target will be met through the Transition to Work program. NOVA Employment in Penrith is another transition to work provider that has impressed me with its success. Trellina Kay shines as an example of how the Transition to Work program succeeds for people with disabilities and their families. With NOVA's help, Trellina now works with Quick Grow Hydroponics in Richmond growing lettuces. During a transition to work program she identified her desire to work outdoors Selina worked with Trellina every day at Quick Grow. As Trellina's knowledge and confidence grew, Selina dropped back until Trellina was able to work independently. Trellina said, "My mum thinks my having a job gives me something to do and makes me happier. It means I am able to afford what I like to buy. It is better to work and have money than be poor."



'Dress for Success' Workshop



Transition to Work Trainees at our Katoomba Outlet decided to to complete their

'Appropriate Attire for Particular Jobs'

learning module with the real life experience of a make-over.

Cassie, a second year trainee, volunteered to be transformed and with a little make-up, a few curls and the right outfit the results were stunning.

Several of the trainees are keen to find work in an office environment and found this session invaluable.

Catriona McKay
Transition to Work Katoomba



Katie's Dream Comes True!

Katie is a young woman with a dream to work with horses. For this Transition to Work Trainee at NOVA's Penrith outlet this dream was finally realised when she commenced a work experience program with the organisation 'Riding for the Disabled' at Blaxland. Katie worked hard mucking out the stables and keeping the kitchen area clean and can't wait to get back there again.

Megan Elliott Work Experience Job Coach



The Hon. Graham West visits NOVA Campbelltown

NOVA's uncapped program continues its growth and moves from strength to strength and no where is it more evident than in the Metropolitan South West areas of Sydney. NOVA's CEO, Martin Wren stated that "The quality of the service delivery and associated processes is clearly improved, the results flowing from the teams efforts are excellent and we have not been adversely affected by the global financial crisis."

Gary Canham, NOVA's Uncapped Program Manager, has worked tirelessly to not only improve and increase the service but to build working relationships with all sectors of the local community. It was for these reasons that Gary extended an invitation to the Hon. Graham West, MP, to visit and meet with staff and clients at the Campbelltown Outlet. The visit highlighted NOVA's Open Employment, Transition to Work and Deaf Services which cater for people with a disability. As a result, NOVA will be featured in the local newspapers, receive a mention in Parliament and be nominated for the 2009 Business Awards.

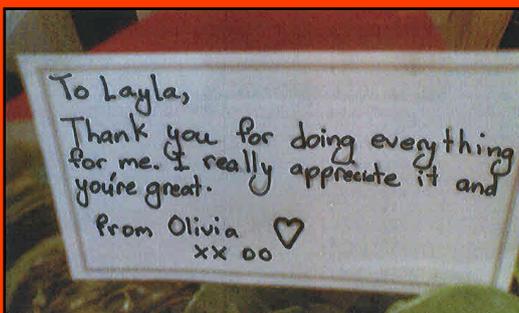
During his visit, the Minister spent time with NOVA's Transition to Work Trainees learning about their program and answering their questions about what it is like to be a politician and working in the world of politics.



This visit also including another special guest 'Captain' Pat McGeown from radio station C91.3. In return, Pat invited Gary Canham to join him on his radio show. This turned out to be an incredible experience for Gary, despite the nerves, and has enabled many more listeners to hear about the incredible work of NOVA. Pat has also extended an invitation for one of the Transition to Work trainees, who has experience working on community radio, to join the team at C91.3 for work experience.

Employing someone with a disability is not an act of charity it's sound business sense.

Through NOVA you'll get workers who want to work and who aren't using their jobs as stepping stones or stop-gaps. If you want keen employees with plenty of ability give NOVA a call 1300 ABILITY or visit www.novaemployment.com.au



What's happening at Cafe 64

Staff and workers at Cafe 64 in Walgett have had a very busy time lately. Their participation in



“Loud Shirt Day” raised much needed funds for The Shepherd Centre, a not-for-profit organisation based in NSW and ACT. Loud Shirt Day is about having fun and incorporating colour and craziness into your ordinary day.

The Cafe also participated in the “Biggest Morning Tea” which is one of Australia's best



known and respected charity events. Each year it raises millions of dollars for cancer research, education, support services and prevention. I am pleased to announce that we raised nearly \$400 taking the total raised by the township of Walgett to over \$7000.



Cafe staff Pauline, Millie & Maree



Back - Millie, Pauline, Victor, Les, Ralf, Dudley, Barry
Front - George, Don, Maree



Victor with one of his incredible cakes

Dear Martyn, Rob and the team at Nova, Port Macquarie.

As the parents of Scott, we wish to take this opportunity to express to you the appreciation, gratitude and thankfulness we feel for all your hard work, commitment and dedication you have shown to Scott in securing a position for him at a local building site. Right from the first phone contact with Martyn through to Scott starting work as a labourer Nova has played an important role in a successful transition into the workforce for Scott.

Around October last year Martyn started working with Scott after school getting to know him and finding out his interest and goals. Martyn never stopped encouraging Scott to express himself and to believe in himself, Scott looked forward to his meetings with Martyn and with his confidence growing, visited many building and construction sites around town. Scott with the help of Martyn scribing, sat for his Green card and was very excited when it arrived in the mail. Martyn was in phone contact with Scott weekly and Scott was very confident in ringing Martyn whenever he felt the need. Scott weakness were never an issue instead his abilities were highlighted and together they planned a step by step guide in securing a job. Martyn, with his many contacts and being well known around town, put in the ground work that continued when a new employment officer Rob, took over working with Scott.

When Scott started work experience with Port Macquarie labourer hire, Rob went on the site with Scott, teaching him safety, helping him understand and carry out the many requirements of working on a busy construction site. Rob continued to encourage and praise Scott for his hard work and was waiting for Scott at the start of each work day. This was so important for a young man who was extremely nervous to be starting his first job. After two weeks of work experience and Rob checking on Scott through out the day, Scott was put on to three days which quickly became five and often six days per week. Rob continued to liaise with the site foreman who was also full of praise, encouragement and understanding.



Scott has grown so much in confidence since starting work. He has become very motivated, and talks about what he wants for the future most of all he feels accepted as "just one of boys". Working has opened up a whole new experience in life for Scott and he is happy. So thank you Nova, Martyn and Rob for giving Scott the helping hand needed to achieve his dream.



Thanks sincerely Geoff and Robyn