



June 2012

# SHORT FILM COMPETITION

## "FOCUS ON ~~DISABILITY~~"

# \$50,000 CASH AND PRIZES

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

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- Caringbah
- Cobar
- Forster
- Hurstville
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- Penrith
- Port Macquarie
- Richmond
- Rockdale
- Rouse Hill
- Springwood
- St Marys
- Taree
- Windsor

#### QLD

- Beaudesert
- Beenleigh
- Logan

## CEO Comment— *Martin Wren*

*Six months into the year and NOVA is travelling well with one particular highlight – media coverage!*

At the start of the year I challenged our staff to see if they could ensure we had at least 1 newspaper article covering the ability of our job seekers and workers.

About 21 weeks later we have collated the stories and we are bang on track with 21 newspaper success stories that speak to just what NOVA clients, their employers, supporters and our community can achieve.

There will be a link to the collected work placed on our homepage so you can see for yourself how well the teams have done.

The Focus on DisAbility ([www.focusonability.com.au](http://www.focusonability.com.au)) film competition has got off the ground with some advertising already appearing and inquiries coming from all over the place.



Our Ambassador, Paula Duncan is working hard to ensure that we have a very special evening in October when Fox Studios will host the evening.

And finally, just so none can say they weren't warned, we are working on a very special new project that will (fingers crossed!) help many more people get the job of their dreams – more to come next month.

## Holly's a success in Katoomba- *Carmel Wren*

NOVA Transition to Work started in the Katoomba outlet in 2007. One of the first trainees was a young adult named Holly Brown. At the end of her two-year course, she received a traineeship at the Family Hotel in Katoomba.



I came to Nova in 2009 as a support worker three days a week and helping with transition one day a week. The very first client I received on my caseload and met was Holly, a very energetic and bubbly person. As a support worker, I was able to help her through her traineeship, communication skills, social skills, and work ethics.



In 2011, all of her hard work paid off and she finished her traineeship, at this point, I was now working mainly as a job coach and now Holly had taken two of my trainees under her wing and showed them the ropes at the hotel for work experience. Holly

blossomed even more as she thrived in this new role and her confidence was growing.

Holly may no longer be my client as I am solely in Transition to Work, but I was very proud when I received a phone call from Holly asking me what I was doing on April 3rd, as she would be receiving her certificate in hospitality.

Of course, I had to attend and witness this wonderful presentation. I wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work Holly has done as she has come full circle from learning the ropes to teaching trainees and collecting a certificate to add to her resume. Well done Holly!

## Samatha is on the job- *Paule Jarvis*

Samantha Smith is a very proud young lady as a result of working in conjunction with her Employment Consultant, Donna Collins, from NOVA's Rouse Hill office.

Samantha now bears the title of "Full Time Employee".

Donna informed Samantha that NOVA's Marketing department had posted an Aboriginal identified Position as Administration Support Officer within the NSW Police Department. Samantha was interested and felt she fitted the criteria; an administration position matched her job choice perfectly.

With Donna's assistance Samantha addressed her employment barriers which included extreme shyness and very limited experience in interview situations and workplace practices.

This is Samantha's first paid employment. Previously she had worked successfully in a voluntary capacity (they were very reluctant to see her leave). Rouse Hill Manager Bernie Davey said this voluntary work allowed Samantha to develop and strengthen her working skills to the point where she was able to consider open employment opportunities.

With Donna's Post Placement Support and the support from the NSW Police Aboriginal Liaison Officer Samantha has embraced her working role; which includes general administration, record management, clerical and keyboard support, scheduling and recording the MEIG (Major Events and Incidents Group) commands meeting minutes. Samantha is also providing customer focused service to the MEIG Command and any other units requiring MEIG assistance.

Executive Officer of the NSW Police Department, Peter Newman, is quoted as saying "Samantha has already made a positive impact on her colleagues. Sam has picked up the role and made it hers, she learns new tasks quickly and keeps notes on every aspect of her job role."

Since commencing her employment Samantha has made many positive life enhancing changes. She has moved from the family home and is enjoying her new found independence. Recently she purchased a new bed and other furniture for her unit. All benefits of her new employment

Samantha is now considering obtaining her drivers licence, a further step towards her growing independence.



## 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.



# Focus on Ability 4

*If you're a budding filmmaker, have you got the ability to see the world differently? Can you focus differently? If you can, NOVA Employment wants you!*

For the 4th consecutive year NOVA Employment is running their Focus on Ability Short Film competition. The competition is aimed at raising awareness of the abilities of people with a disability.



The banner features the NOVA Employment logo at the top left. The main text reads "SHORT FILM COMPETITION" in large, bold, white letters. To the right, it says "FOCUS ON ~~DISABILITY~~" in white, with "\$50,000 CASH AND PRIZES" in large blue text below it. At the bottom right, it says "visit focusonability.com.au". The background is dark with a film strip graphic and a silhouette of a person wearing sunglasses. Logos for smeg, THE MODERN HONOLULU, HAWAIIAN AIRLINES, and Sony Foundation Australia are at the bottom.

This year there's over \$50,000 worth of cash and prizes to be won.

The theme for the competition asks film makers to "Focus on the Ability" of people with a disability. Films must be under five minutes in duration and there are two categories: the School's competition, which is open to all Australian High schools, and the Open Entrant category, which is for people of all ages and open to everyone.

Some big names in the Australian film scene will form the judging panel, including John Orcsik, David Cameron and Lisa Shaunessy. These judges will decide the best film in both the High School and Open Entrant Category with a \$17,500 appliance package for the winning High School and a trip for 2 to Hawaii courtesy of Hawaiian airlines up for grabs for the winning Open Entrant

There will also be an online voting segment side to the competition with public voting deciding \$16,000 in cash to be won over the 2 categories.

"Focus on Ability" competition ambassador Paula Duncan AM is thrilled to be part of this year's competition. "There is nothing more wonderful than fulfilling someone's life through the screen. Take in the lives of those that you know who have a disability and bring that life to the screen".

"I encourage each of you to sit down with your friends and be creative, come up with some wonderful ideas. Write, produce, direct and bring to life this film making competition."

The competition culminates in an awards night held at Fox Studios, with entrants having the chance to feel like Scorsese and see their films premiered on the big screen.

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