

# Job-seekers given a hand

By **Monica Heary**

A PROGRAM that supports school leavers with disabilities to move into the workplace is set to start in January at Rockdale.

NOVA Transition is a two-year post-school plan for school leavers.

It guides trainees and matches their skills, interests and experience to a job.

Michael Demanuele has been able to take advantage of the program in Sutherland Shire.

His mother Angela Demanuele of Kyeemagh has noticed a big change in her son's demeanour since he began the program.

"Michael's communication skills and confidence have increased dramatically and he is able to follow directions much better than before," she said.

"He is now travelling independently and is learning about different industries through work experience."

NOVA Transition began in 2005 as an extension of what Nova Employment had done since 1990 by placing people with a disabilities into employment.



**Help with jobs:** Teacher Leisha Distefano (left), Stuart Mooney, Thomas Wehbe, Tristan Woodberry, Michael Demanuele and Ibrahim Zeaiter.

Picture: John Veage

Last year Hurstville Transition placed all of its trainees in their job choices, and in their local area.

Transition to Work co-ordinator Meg Elliott will match up potential workers with employers and community services.

She will attempt to find matches for work involving computers, animals, shopping, food and gardening.

**Details: Meg Elliott, 0414 311 933  
or [transition.com.au](http://transition.com.au)**