

Focus On Ability



NOVA Locations

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

Link to our websites:

novaemployment.com.au

transition.com.au

deafjobs.com.au

novatraining.com.au

youtube.com

facebook.com



C.E.O. Comment Martin Wren

Taxpayers – and why we need more of them!
Some people don't like paying tax. I do, in fact I wish I paid more. I wish I paid twice as much as I do. Why? Because that would mean I was earning twice as much!

I know lots of other people who'd jump at the opportunity to pay tax as well – they are job seekers with NOVA, young men and women who are very keen to give up welfare and start making their contribution to Australian society, paying their way for the services our government gives us.
Which is why August was such an exciting month, not just for my staff and me, but for more than 60 individuals who became taxpayers - many of them for the first time.

In fact, August was the best month for placements that NOVA has ever had.

Sixty six new workers were found jobs in just a month. That's more work that NOVA found in the first 2 years of operation, a great result.

There are some other exciting things happening as well. NOVA's Broken Hill Manager won the area's 'Young Achiever of the Year' award, NOVA Campbelltown were finalists in the Macarthur Business Awards and next month we are off to Melbourne for the National Diversity Awards.

This is truly a very exciting time to be part of this program and I look forward to sharing even more good news in the months ahead

**Daniel's a Real Winner....
2009 Gloucester Business Awards**

To be recognised by your employer, peers and community members is indeed an honour. Daniel, who is working at Daytona Trailers was the winner of the 'Employee with a Disability' Award after being nominated by his employers Mark and Amanda Yardy. "Daniel displays a commendable commitment to his work and the other team members at Daytona. He is a highly motivated individual who regularly encourages others in our workforce to adopt his own energy and commitment" Mark Yardy said.

Daniel was placed at Daytona Trailers with the support of NOVA Employment after he successfully completed NOVA's highly regarded two year Transition to Work Program.

For information about Transition to Work visit our website www.novaemployment.com.au



Robyn-Lea Taaffe with Daniel

Avian's Work Experience

Avian is a first year trainee in the Hurstville Transition to Work Program. Nervous at first, it did not take her long to settle in and participate in the program.

A vital element of NOVA's Transition to Work Program is placement in regular work experience of their choice. This gives the trainees a much clearer idea of the types of employment available and helps them decide what sort of job they would like.

Avian indicated that she would like to do retail work, so with the help and support of her job coach, she was placed at Target. NOVA's Transition to Work program offers work experience and takes into account all factors that affect young people with disability in employment. So it was necessary to ensure that Avian was placed in a store that is close to home and that she was able to travel independently. Her job coach has commented on how much Avian's confidence has grown and the skills she has managed to acquire.

[Click the link to learn more about NOVA's Transition to Work Program](#)



Well Done Dillon



Dillon with Jill Allan from Chantham Smash Repairs in Taree

The trainees from NOVA's Transition to Work program are young, enthusiastic and skilled with a great future ahead of them. One such trainee is Dillon who has just been offered a permanent part-time position at Chantham Smash Repairs in Taree. This exciting opportunity was offered to Dillon as reward for his hard work and the support he received from NOVA Employment.

Dillon has been interested in the metals industry for many years and now he will be working between 20 and 40 hours per week. Dillon's mother Robyn summed up everyone's feelings when she said, "Oh My God, I'm so pleased, I think I could cry... this is so wonderful". Thanks must also go to the hard work and dedication of Dillon's job coach Jane Harrison. "I knew he could do it" proudly commented Jane.

Jill Allan from Chatham Smash Repairs commented that Dillon was "not like the other young fellows who come in here. We like him because he acts like he wants to be at our business, not like he is trying to get out of something else".

Congratulations Dillon and good luck in your new Job.

Fantastic work Robert

Robert registered with NOVA Employment at 38 years of age with a very limited work experience. Even though Robert is hearing impaired and has an intellectual disability, he was easy to talk to and was keen and ready to work.

Robert didn't mind doing work that required physical strength and was keen to attend an interview at Langely's meats. The employer was most impressed with Robert's attitude and he offered an immediate start. Robert's part-time duties included working in the animal pens and it was not long before Robert settled into his new workplace. Robert's self esteem grew and so did his finances. Robert and his wife were able to move into a nicer home.



Robert proved to be a reliable, hard worker and it was not long before he was offered a full-time position and recently a traineeship. Robert now feels part of his community and his strong work ethic which has won him respect and friendships at his worksite. His Employment Consultant Jennifer Byrnes can not believe the change employment has made to Robert's life.

NOVA Campbelltown recognised by their community

NOVA's Campbelltown branch were recognised as part of the Macarthur Chronicle Business Achievers Award for their outstanding contribution to their community. NOVA was represented in two categories and although were not successful in achieving major prizes were awarded a complimentary advertising package with the local newspaper. The awards were celebrated with a Gala Dinner which was enjoyed by NOVA's CEO Martin Wren, Senior Manager, Anne Goyer, Campbelltown Managers Gary Canham, David Budd and Elena Naomenko and Transition to Work Coordinator Caroline Santangelo, and Employment Consultants Cath Godber, Cathy Morgan, Cassandra Olsen, and Susan Hayes.



Manager Gary Canham with CEO Martin Wren

A tribute to NOVA's success was the nomination of Brett Jones who with NOVA's support gained employment at Panarotti's Restaurant. Brett was nominated in the category for 'Apprentice of the Year' Award proving that focusing on someone's ability will lead to success.



CEO Martin Wren with Campbelltown Managers Gary Canham, Elena Naomenko and David Budd.

Transition to Work Trainees Bridge the Gap with Technology

The NOVA's Transition to Work Program took another step into the age of technology, and had a lot of fun doing it!

NOVA's branch managers from Broken Hill and Forster decided that they were just too far apart so they put their heads together and came up with a way of 'closing the distance'. With the purchase of a couple of webcams and the use of 'Skype' they initiated NOVA's first intrastate online meeting between the Transition to Work trainees in Broken Hill with those in St Mary's and Forster.

First to be connected was St Marys and Broken Hill who introduced themselves then asked each other questions about their towns and lifestyles. "It was so much more personal to be able to see the person you are talking to, and it was exciting for the students to utilise this sort of equipment for such a positive experience!" said Jess Burton, Branch Manager Broken Hill.

Next to 'connect' were the Forster and Broken Hill Transition to Work groups who were able to discuss the similarities between their programs and the vast differences between the Broken Hill desert and the North Coast beaches. According to their Job coaches Debbie and Karen the students all benefited from this great experience and have planned to reconnect in the near future.



Transition to Work Trainees Shannon, Joshua, Katie, and Sarah using SKYE technology to communicate with other trainees.

Anne Marie's Dream Job

Anne Marie came to Nova with a passion to work with animals. She has three pet cockatiels who are the love of her life and she makes jewellery to sell to support feeding them. At 28 years of age Anne Marie had only been employed for a short period of time in a pet shop seven years ago. Even though Anne Marie has an intellectual disability she is a passionate, capable, hard worker.

Anne Marie faced many barriers to finding and keeping open employment as she does not drive and dislikes catching public transport during peak hours as the local school children often taunt her and she is not comfortable working after dark. Anne Marie also struggles concentrating for any length of time and is able to stay on task more easily in the mornings. Without retail skills for the pet shops and TAFE qualifications for the veterinary clinics it was difficult to find work in Anne Marie's chosen field - working with animals. Yet Anne Marie and NOVA's Employment Consultant Jennifer Byrnes persisted and it's true what they say "persistence does pay" Anne Marie was finally offered a position at Windsor Dog Grooming Salon. Jennifer says "I will never forget the look on Anne Marie's face when Kerry offered Anne Marie a job three mornings per week the smile on her face was priceless".

Anne Marie has worked at the Salon for the past four months. She has overcome the problems using public transport by travelling to work early before the school children and enjoying breakfast before work at a local cafe. Anne Marie began her new job cleaning the salon and washing the dogs and now she blow dries as well. She has a natural rapport with animals and they are comfortable in her presence.

Anne Marie's entire world has changed since she gained employment. She now has a reason to get out of bed and with the money she earns she is saving to move into a home closer to work. Anne Marie is now well known and has made friends. Employment has certainly made a difference to Anne Marie's life.



Transition to Work Open Days

NOVA's Transition to Work Program will be hosting a series of Open Days.
Dates and locations are as follows:

Penrith	2nd September	Taree	23rd September
Richmond	3rd September	Tuncurry	24th September
Katoomba	9th September	Port Macquarie	25th September
St Marys	10th September	Blacktown	2nd October
Caringbah	11th September	Broken Hill	9th October
Campbelltown	16th September	Logan	14th October
Hurstville	17th September		

For further information please visit our website www.transition.com.au
Or contact Caroline Santangelo TTW Coordinator on 0424 175 240