



March 2016

**NOW'S**  
the time  
to get great staff!

**NOW'S**  
the time  
to get a great job!

### CEO Comment

*Martin Wren*

*During March I had the very real privilege of presenting some films from the 2015 'Focusonability' short film festival in New York!*

Over 3 nights my team and I, accompanied by the very lovely Ms Paula Duncan, presented a selection of films that showcased Australian culture and values toward disability. As well we were able to show some excellent international entries. The 3 chosen venues were the Australian Consulate, New York City University and the offices of Independent Care System.

While the first 2 screenings were enjoyable and (I hope) informative for the viewers the night at Independent Care Systems has to be a highlight of my career.

What an incredible team of people, caring skilled staff and a group of people with disability that understands the importance of creating an inclusive society and are keen to take a role in its creation.



Coming home via London enabled me to practice my accent and also to take a little time out to see how our cousins in both the USA and UK compare with us when it comes to employment for people with disability. I am very pleased to report that Australian services are at least as good and, in my opinion, generally better than those of our cousins.

Great to be back!

### NOVA OFFICES

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

## Consider a Part time job - Steven Last - Lets Get Working

*Hi and welcome to a discussion of considering every opportunity.*

When you're unemployed and looking for work do you consider every job opportunity, or do you ignore things that aren't exactly what you want? Part time work may not be what you're looking for but that doesn't mean it will be a waste of time. If you perform well at the job, there's always the chance of gaining more hours, or maybe being offered a different position.

While the money may not be enough for you, in the short term it's better than nothing. Getting into a job can help to improve your attitude and self-worth. Feeling valued or needed by other is important, and having a job gives you these feelings.

So while the job may not be what you want, that doesn't mean there's nothing to gain from going for it. Think about these three things; Experience, Contacts, and Information.

**Experience** - Depending how long you've been unemployed for, your resume may have small gaps of a month or larger gaps that stretch years. Gaining recent experience not only shows you're still active. It can be useful in transitioning back into working life. Think of it as a stepping stone on the way to the job you really want.

Use this opportunity to learn. If you've been out of work for years there will likely be differences in the way things are done. Take the time to familiar yourself with these differences, or improve your skills in other areas that will be useful for future jobs.

**Contacts** - Working gives you the opportunity to encounter people that can make great networking contacts, both co-workers and customers. So take advantage of this. If you perform your job well, you'll probably be able to use your manager as a reference for your resume. Just like experience recent references are better than someone you worked for 10 years ago.

**Information** - Many jobs don't get advertised. But once you're in a company you'll have access to their internal job board. This gives you the opportunity to apply for positions that you would have never known about that may be more suited to you.

Don't forget that this is only a part time job. This still leaves you with time to continue searching for a job if you wish. Part time positions often have a high turnover, and your employer shouldn't be surprised when you tell them you'll be leaving them for another job.

So there is more than just money to be gained from a job. Now that you know what you can gain, if you're offered a part time job in the future, will you consider it?

## CONNECT with INDUSTRY – The GOOD GUYS PENRITH

*During a training session on Connecting with Industry with the TTW Penrith trainees, Job Coach Gloria used the opportunity to do some cold calling of businesses, chosen by the trainees themselves to visit.*

Trainees are always interested to see firsthand what a company does, what jobs types are available and ask the employees and management questions about the industry. One faithful business owner said YES. A meeting was swiftly booked and a visit was conducted with The GOOD GUYS in Penrith. Like the name says... they were pretty good to us!!!

The trainees commented that they learnt a great deal about entry level positions within the GOOD GUYS. Here are some of their own reflections after the visit...



"It was interesting to know how one of the managers became a manager of that department" - *Stephanie*

**LEFT** - John Walford (store manager), as he gave talks to our very well presented trainees, Leroy and Gavan.

"I learnt how orders are taking from customers" - *Taylor*

"I liked how the manager was so willing to answer questions.

I didn't like one trainee asking ridiculous questions like, can I get a free freezer?

"I learnt that all you need for an entry level job, is people skills and the right attitude" - *Leroy*.

"I learnt about what people do at the GOOD GUYS" - *Alex*

Leroy did a great job THANKING the GOOD GUYS on behalf of NOVA at the end and a Certificate of Appreciation was handed to John (store manager).

Better still, Daniel our first year trainee secured Work Experience Placement and has started working at the GOOD GUYS one day per week

### 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?*



<http://www.sharks.com.au/>

*The Sharks have thrown their support behind the Nova Employment 100 Jobs in 100 Days campaign, with new boys James Maloney and Joseph Paulo joined by Kiwi international Gerard Beale in helping to launch the initiative at Sharks Leagues Club last Friday.*

The three Sharks NRL stars were on hand at the unveiling of the Nova Employment program which arranges training and sources employment opportunities for people with disabilities.



The Nova Employment campaign aims to provide 100 jobs in 100 days for people with disabilities in the Sutherland Shire and St George areas.

While the program had its official launch late last week, the campaign is already up and running having commenced on February 1.

Nova Employment, which is a not-for-profit organisation, has two offices in the Sutherland Shire at Engadine and Caringbah, as well as three in the St George area in Hurstville (2 offices) and Rockdale.

And in adding some spice to the St George-Sharks rivalry, due to Nova's presence in both regions, will be a competition of sorts to see which area can source the most jobs in helping to reach the 100 jobs target.

Group CEO Lyall Gorman has committed the Sharks support to the campaign, with the Leagues Club interviewing Nova candidates for jobs now.

Last Friday's launch included a presentation and an address from Nova Employment CEO Martin Wren before guests listened to a series of inspirational stories from past Nova Job seekers, some who have overcome enormous challenges to gain employment and are now making significant contributions to the organisations they work for.

Employers who have seen the many benefits in their workplace after employing Nova Employment clients, also spoke in support of Nova, their initiatives and the programs they provide.

Rugby League legend John Peard and actress Paula Duncan, a seven-time Logie winner and Nova ambassador, were other special guests at the launch event which was also attended by local business people and politicians.