



May 2017



### CEO Comment

Martin Wren

*The importance of a solid grounding for your career can't be overstated and finding yourself in an Apprenticeship or Traineeship is one of the best foundations any person can choose and this most certainly includes people with a disability.*

However, the overall numbers of people choosing such a career path is declining and some trades are finding it very difficult to recruit suitable candidates. It's an ill wind that blows no one some good and my staff have been happy to fill this vacuum with some sites reporting as many as 30% of the total placement the outlet has made being either Apprenticeships or Traineeships.

Employers are delighted, as one business owner recently said to me; 'I wouldn't have thought about including someone with a disability on my team and the day John joined us was a terrific day for us, he's keen and reliable and has quickly established himself as one of the team – as soon as we have the work I will be coming back to NOVA.'



I remember the very first apprenticeships NOVA obtained – we were so proud of our new workers who both completed their 4 year training and have stayed with us for the past 27 years receiving assistance to change jobs and roles but always able to rely upon the skills they gained during their formal training program.

NOVA staff are trained to aim high and get the best rather than the minimum with 20 Apprenticeships and Traineeships signed up this month alone.

### NOVA OFFICES

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

## 100 JOBS IN 100 DAYS - 'OK, right, you can do this!'

*It's the annual regional campaign helping to transform the lives of local young people with a disability. And the message is straightforward: Young people, you have something worthwhile to offer and there are jobs that need you – regardless of a disability.*

Nova Employment's 100 Jobs in 100 Days campaign has helped connect hundreds of business and local people with disabilities.



South-west resident Juan Garcia, 20, was on hand at last Wednesday's launch to tell his story about searching for work.

The room was filled with more than 70 people from south-west businesses, who listened intently as he spoke with Nova manager David Budd.

Mr Garcia said while he had a disability, it was his passion for plants and gardening that made him stand out.

Jacinta Maas, owner of JLM Conveyancing, said she knew first-hand what it was like to have a person with a disability as part of her staff, after she took on employee Priya Prasad.

We're so happy, we're looking to hire a second administrative assistance for our team.

- Jacinta Maas, owner, JLM Conveyancing

"Priya is a dedicated and reliable employee" she said. "In the nine months she's been working for us she's exceeded our expectations."

Mrs Maas also praised the organisation for its dedication in helping local young people with disabilities find work. "We're so happy, we're looking to hire a second administrative assistant for our team," she said.

Guests heard from more than 10 other aspiring job-seekers who spoke about their desire to get jobs in administration, hospitality, warehousing and cleaning. Their disabilities ranged from hearing impairment to intellectual disabilities.

Businesses from a range of industries also attended.

Among the crowd were Wests Tigers chief operating officer Ryan Webb and former club great, now ambassador, John Skandalis. He grew up in the south-west and he shared his story of overcoming personal challenges.

For the full article please [click here](#).

## Let's Get Working

*Let's be honest: there's a lot to getting a job. Before you can walk in that door as an employee, you'll need to:*

- \* Figure out what sort of job will suit you
- \* Get some training (unless you are already able to do the job)
- \* Apply for positions – this might be by:
  - Responding to an advertisement
  - Talking with people about what work they have available
- \* Write resumes and cover letters
- \* Convince an interviewer that you're the person for the job.

Phew! It can be a tough gig. [NOVA Transition](#) is here to support you along the path to employment. A valuable resource is NOVA Employment's [Let's Get Working website](#), which is packed with practical tips and advice for job seekers.

Steven is the face of Let's Get Working. Every Tuesday he posts a new blog and video about a particular aspect of the job seeker's journey. He covers a wide range of topics, such as:

- \* How to answer the 'Tell me about yourself' question in an interview
- \* How to gain confidence (and look confident) during the job hunting process
- \* Whether (or when) to tell a potential employer about your disability
- \* Setting a budget – spending that pay cheque wisely!

Many of the topics relate to getting a job – from personal presentation and writing resumes, to how to stay positive. Others focus on working well in your job – for example, making the end of the work day productive.

Steven delivers each blog post in a video, as well as in written format, so you can choose whether to read it or watch and listen.

You'll find lots more information on the website's 'Resources' page, organised into topics such as:

- \* [What career do you want?](#)
- \* [How to apply for jobs](#)
- \* [Interviews](#)
- \* [Tips for job seekers with disabilities](#)
- \* [Goal setting and more!](#)

The Resources page also includes a 'Talking to the experts' section, where Martha interviews workers about their jobs; plus links to each blog post – both recent, and archived older posts.

Check out [Let's Get Working](#): you may find just the information you need – and plenty of inspiration as well!

### 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?*



## What kind of film will you make?

*Okay, with the deadline for the 2017 FOA Film Festival fast approaching, you're no doubt asking yourself, 'What sort of film could I make?' and 'How can I win?'*

Well, the answer to the first question is easy. Over the last eight years, the festival has showcased all sorts of films - dramas, docos, comedies, music videos, dance pieces, biopics, silent films, films in sign language - every one of them made by schools, individuals young and old, small businesses, experienced and inexperienced film-makers ... you name it. So, pretty much anything goes. If you've got an idea that fits the FOA criteria, break out the 4K, handy-cam or, hey, just your phone, and get shootin'.

(Wait a second ... phone? Sure, why not? The hit of the 2015 Sundance Film Festival was Tangerine, shot entirely on iPhone - and that's full feature length! And it's not the only one. Parts of Oscar-winning doco Searching For The Sugar Man were also shot on iPhone.)

As for winning ... well let's look at last year's awards. International winners hailed from Uganda, Sri Lanka and the USA and ranged from roving camera documentary style to a black-and-white, film-noir spoof. Open entrant winner Swish tells a simple basketball dreams story with no dialogue, a great soundtrack and some interesting jump cuts and close-ups. Runner up Wheels of Fortune is beautifully shot and abandons narrative to focus on a series of comic vignettes, which take a poke at society's foibles when it comes to interacting with a guy in a wheelchair.

People's choices Vision Without Sight and The Friendship Bakery both rely heavily on real people telling their own stories to get across strong messages of empowerment and inclusion. NOVA Choice award winner Ethan uses some creative visual effects to put us in the shoes of its central figure, who has an unusual visual impairment. Among the school entrants, Silence uses ... you guessed it ... silence (plus some strategic musical interventions) to brilliantly evoke the daily experience of its central character.

So, is there a formula for success in FOA? Not really. The common elements in these films are their people focus and stories that are authentic and unique. Mind you, it has to be said that all of them made pretty good choices with their soundtrack music, so that clearly doesn't hurt!

Check out full festival details <http://www.focusonability.com.au/>



novaemployment.com.au  
Ph: 02 8886 5800  
Fax: 02 9833 2499



novatraining.com.au  
Ph: 02 88865800  
Fax: 02 9833 2499



transition.com.au  
Ph: 02 8886 5800  
Fax: 02 9833 2499



deafjobs.com.au  
Ph: 02 4632 3300  
F: 02 4625 5955  
TTY: 02 4625 8395