



August 2016

# NOVA EMPLOYMENT

## Hire *dis*Ability



### CEO Comment

*Martin Wren*

*Again I have been very impressed by the teams commitment to 'Aim High'.*

In this case the number of full time positions acquired for former Transition to Work Trainees. So far 37 young men and women have joined the workforce and 20 of these are full time positions, 6 are full time Traineeships and 7 full time Apprentices.

Why is this important?

Simply that such work provides an unbeatable grounding for future success. My youngest boy completed an Apprenticeship and now has a trade that presently pays all his bills and work he can use or return to at any time (he also earns heaps!).

People with disability should not be confined to part time or small hour positions when they wish or are capable of more. The present disability employment service contract



encourages job splitting but I am pleased to see encouraging signs that the present review will result in significantly improved opportunity for people with disability to fully participate in the workforce.

Finally, our '100 jobs in 100 days' campaign for the Macarthur region is well on track for success and it is very pleasing to see that even with the extra pressure our Campbelltown team leads the way in obtaining full time work – well done to Ingleburn, Campbelltown and Camden.

### NOVA OFFICES

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

## Focus on Ability 8 sets new benchmark

*For the 8th consecutive year NOVA Employment presented the Focus on Ability Short Film Festival. This festival asked film makers to 'Focus on the Ability' of people with a disability and tell a story on film for the world to view. This year has been the biggest yet, and our generous sponsors have donated over \$140,000 worth of cash and prizes to encourage film makers and people with disability to tell their stories.*

In 2009, CEO of NOVA Employment Martin Wren began the festival with a belief in the ability of people with disability, and the goal of bringing that belief to the world through the medium of film. Martin recognized the power of film to challenge people's fixed beliefs and perceptions about the lives and abilities of people with disability around the world.

NOVA, together with Paula Duncan, known for both her success in the Australian film and television industry and passion for supporting people with disability, have worked tirelessly to bring this festival to the world.

Previous years films have been both educational and inspirational and have been viewed in 168 countries across the world and voted on by over 500,000 people. Feedback from people who have viewed the films has shown that these entries have the power to change attitudes and challenge perceptions.

In 2016, 194 films were entered from 18 countries.

Every year, the festival culminates in our red carpet awards night with entrants having the chance to feel like Scorsese and see their films premiered on the big screen as well as the opportunity to have their film shown on national television after the Awards night.

Last year, 10 films were screened across Australia's free to air television station SBS and 60 films aired on Foxtel through Aurora TV, and the festival held additional screenings in New York, Melbourne, Adelaide and Auckland. We have additional exciting screening opportunities planned for this festival in 2017.

The audience capacity is well over 1,000,000 people and continuing to grow, providing unmatched exposure for up and coming film makers and for people with disability to bring their message to the world. Films are judged by a professional judging panel and subject to an online voting process, with separate prizes for each category.

We look forward to our big Red Carpet Awards night September 7 in Chatswood where all the winners will be announced.

You can watch all the films at [www.focusonability.com.au](http://www.focusonability.com.au)

## Richmond is Transitioning into Work

Richmond TTW

*It has been a huge year so far for all at Richmond Transition with Work Experience and a Job outcome for one of our 2nd Year trainees.*

Corey has become very independent lately and has achieved his goals. Finding himself in a situation where he had to choose between moving with his family or staying in his local area, Corey decided it was time for him to be responsible for himself. Between Transition and DES Corey has managed to secure himself not only accommodation but a productive job at Harveston Packaging and on top of all that he has started a Cert III in Warehousing, through NOVA as well.



We are very proud of all Corey's achievements and wish him all the best for his future.

Currently our other trainees are blitzing all their Work Experience placements. We have Tayla and Kade at a newsagency, Brayden and Kayla at a nursing home in their laundry, John has been going great at McDonalds, Michael is a regular face at Readers Den at Windsor and John is washing cars. Not to mention Kayla, Kade and Michael also being enormous help in the kitchen at a local golf club. And in their spare time all trainees help out by packaging goods for a tool shop which caters for specialist equipment for children on the autism spectrum.

What can I say...congratulations to all my trainees for putting in a great effort. All feedback has been so positive! These guys will be snapped up by a lucky employer when they are finished their supports with us!

### 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?



*Emma Dowdy-Pitt loves pink. She loves watching MasterChef and learning science at school. She dreams of going to Disneyland and takes great pleasure playing Wii games with her mother.*

Emma wants everyone to know that she is just like them, with innumerable likes, dislikes, joys, fears, hopes and dreams. That's why the 13-year-old Oran Park girl entered a short documentary in the NOVA Focus on Ability 2016 Short Film Festival.



Emma has an intellectual disability and attends Mater Dei School in Cobbitty. Her mother Jennifer Dowdy-Pitt said entering the film festival was one of Emma's greatest joys.

"This is the third year we've entered," Mrs Dowdy-Pitt said. "Emma loves going to the red carpet premiere night."

Mrs Dowdy-Pitt said Emma's message – 'I'm just like you' – didn't even truly hit home with herself until last year.

Emma's best friend, Jen, sadly died last year and it was at her funeral that Mrs Dowdy-Pitt realised just how important her daughter's message was.

"This documentary was inspired by a beautiful friendship between two people you wouldn't associate with being friends," she said. "It was between a girl who was non-verbal and always used a wheelchair and a girl who was verbal and sometimes used a wheelchair. They were the best of friends and I didn't realise until Jen's funeral just how close they were."

Mrs Dowdy-Pitt said Emma wanted to go to her friend's funeral, but when they arrived there were too many people and it was too crowded.

So they waited in a nearby park until the crowd subsided and they visited Jen's coffin.

"Emma laid down on the ground by Jen's coffin and I had this image in my head of two girls laughing and having fun lying in the sun," Mrs Dowdy-Pitt said. "I realised in that moment that in my mind I had not been seeing Jen as a person but as her disability."

The mother and daughter worked to create a short documentary where Emma talks about all her favourite things. Things that make her just like everyone else.

Mrs Dowdy-Pitt said she had received lots of positive comments from people who had seen the film. She hopes everyone can take some time to watch all the festival entries, not just her daughter's, and reflect on the way they view people with disability.