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NOVA'S 100 JOBS IN 100 DAYS | Joseph is thrilled with Matias's progress



 Joseph Akerry (left), director of Bluebeard Joinery, with office administration trainee Matias Sanchez who got this job through Nova.

So far, since **NovaEmployment** launched its **100 jobs in 100 days** campaign on May 30, it's secured jobs for 42 people. That's 42 people who no longer get disability benefits and are now in open employment positions and who've become taxpayers. The program runs to September 21. Here's one of their success stories.

EMPLOYER

Joseph Akerry, director, Bluebeard Joinery Prestons

1. Describe your business?

We are a kitchen joinery manufacturing company.

2. How did you connect with Nova?

David, of Nova Employment, came in and introduced himself and Nova to us.

3. When and why did you hire Matias?

Matias came in as a work-placement trial employee and because of how well he fitted in here we decided to hire him for a traineeship.

“Matias was very shy and introverted when he started but he's greatly come out of his shell and socialises a lot more with the team each day.”

Joseph Akerry

4. What's Matias's job description?

Handyman, office clerk, maintenance man and receptionist . . . an all-rounder!

5. How has his progress been?

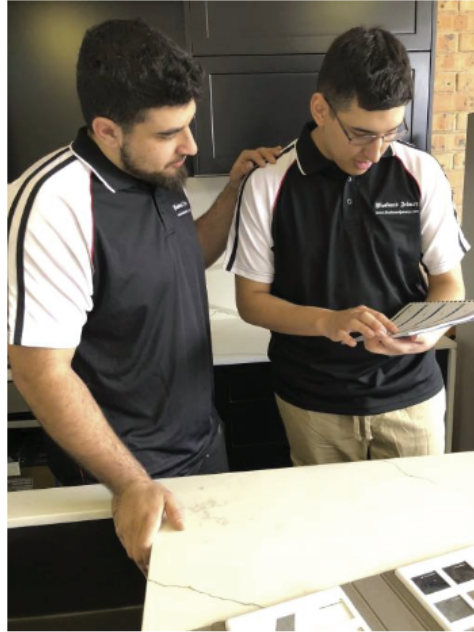
Matias was very shy and introverted when he started with us and would take a bit longer on jobs. But over time he's greatly come out of his shell and has begun to socialise a lot more with the team on a day-to-day basis and has improved so much on his time-management skills and has even taken it on his own initiative to improve and excel with his customer-service skills.


6. What do you value most about Nova's service and support?

It's through Nova support that we continue to hire people who need that opportunity to get a good start in the working industry. We also love working with Nova as a way to work with and give back to the community.

7. How has hiring Matias affected his coworkers and the business in general?

Matias is very well mannered and polite. He's been excelling at his customer service and handling clients which has helped with taking some pressure off the office staff. He's also good at helping around the warehouse, whether loading the trucks or helping on the edging machine, giving the warehouse an extra set of hands which means production is flowing a lot better.



 Joseph Akerry (left) and Matias Sanchez.

8. Did you need to make any changes as a result of hiring a person with a disability?

We needed to practise being a bit more patient and understanding when it came to work performance and responsibility.

9. Would you recommend Nova to other businesses?

Yes, absolutely. Nova's support group shows how much they care about their clients' and employees' work lives a lot more than many work-placement companies. They show great support when it comes to training their employees and are always willing to help and answer any queries.

NOVA CLIENT

Matias Sanchez, office administration trainee, Bluebeard Joinery Prestons

1. What does this job mean to you?

It means a lot to me, mainly because it's my first job, and everyone has been nice to me and working here has shown me my potential for what I'm capable of. And it's helping expand my knowledge and try new things, giving me new skills and helping me learn more.

2. Has it affected your life in general?

It's teaching me to talk and interact with different people and is bringing me out of my comfort zone in a good way.

“It means a lot to me – it’s my first job – and everyone has been nice to me and working here has shown me my potential for what I’m capable of.”

Matias Sanchez

3. What do you like most about your job?

Being around Anna and her family as well as being able to help the company grow in a positive and beneficial way.

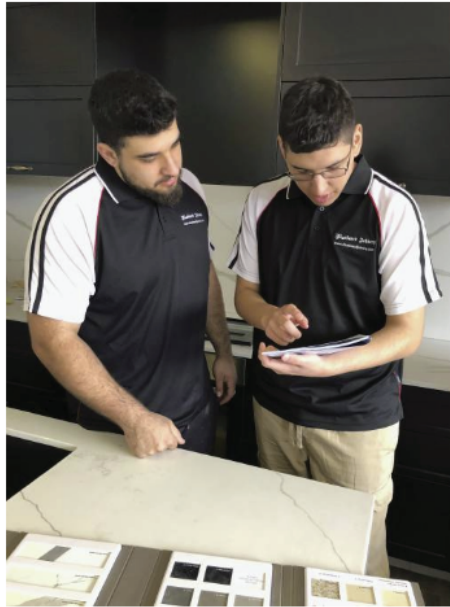
4. Describe what you do at work?

I help around the warehouse in a variety of different positions, such as general hand, office clerk, maintenance, receptionist and just generally float through the business helping with anything and doing my best to rise to the challenges of new tasks.

5. Are you saving for anything special?

Not particularly but I’m saving as much as I can so if anything comes up I’d like to buy I’ll always know I have that money there. And I’m also budgeting so I can help out at home.

- **Employers wanting to create a more inclusive workforce can call: Moh Barghachoun, manager, Nova Liverpool, 0414 238 479.**



 Joseph Akerry (left) and Matias Sanchez.