



December 2015



### CEO Comment

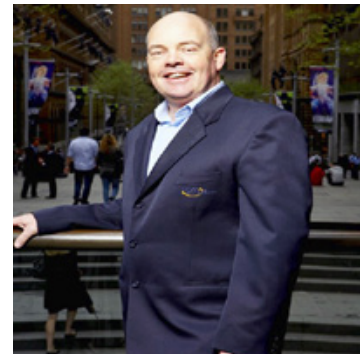
*Martin Wren*

*What a fantastic year – what a bright 2016 on the horizon*

Over the course of 2015 NOVA made a 50% improvement in placements over 2014 (which was of itself a record breaking year). What has been really exciting is seeing the number of retained placements consistently improve to now be around 30% better than national averages.

Data obtained by NOVA also show we excel when it comes to placing people with intellectual disability (around 25% more people in employment than the next provider) and of those placement more than 50% more likely to last more than 26 weeks. The best news though is that these numbers are likely to continue to improve as NOVA staff concentrate on improving long term job retention.

We have set ourselves a goal for 2016 – a further 10% improvement all round and we are tracking well for further improvement already.



You may also see and hear (fingers crossed) our new promotion campaign for the employment of people who have a disability. “Now’s the Time!” is our theme and whether you are thinking about hiring a person with disability, you are a person who has a disability and you want a great job or you are a member of our community who focuses on ability – ‘Now’s the time’ to take action!

I will keep you posted on our progress.

### NOVA OFFICES

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

## TTW Graduation Day another hit!

Leisha Distefano

NOVA Transition to Work's annual day of days was held on Thursday 3rd December at 'The Cube' in Campbelltown Catholic Club.



It is no accident that the 3rd of December is the International Day of People with a Disability also coincides with NOVA TTW's biggest event of the year. Our Graduation Day is the proudest moment for not only our graduates, but also their families, carers & loved ones, their teachers and our staff.

It is the culmination of two years hard work, sweat, tears, joy and determination.

Graduation Day is the opportunity for us to applaud and acknowledge all the trainee has achieved over these two years.

The look of pride and elation on the faces of our trainees makes every ounce of the challenges that have arisen so very much worthwhile.



This year we had the presence of the Honourable John Ajaka MP who spoke with pride and passion of NOVA TTW trainees' accomplishments.

Martin Wren, NOVA's CEO, alongside NOVA's ambassador Paula Duncan AM were the event's MCs for the day and truly kept the 380 guests well entertained with proceedings running smoothly.

The trainees all received their Certificate I in Work Education on stage, and there were also awards and trophies presented for Highest Work Placement Hours and Highest Attendance for both first year trainees and the graduating class.



A delicious and sumptuous two course meal was served for lunch, and we were thoroughly entertained by our musical celebrity, Chris Sebastian, who had the whole room up and dancing to some groovy tunes, and was then followed by some more dance music by the club's DJ.

A wonderful time was had by all who attended and all of us; particularly the 2016 Graduates are looking forward with much anticipation to next year's Graduation Day!

### 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?



## A Clouet & NOVA's great partnership

*Daniel Osborne, Warehouse Manager*

"We found NOVA about four years ago when we were looking for someone in a part time role. The role involves manually unloading shipping containers. It can be a difficult job physically as the boxes are heavy and sometimes fiddly. It can also be a bit of a mind game, doing the same task over and over for three to four hours at a time. Our main concern was that the person we hired needed to be able to handle the physical and mental challenge nature of the work.

The NOVA managers were easy to talk to and willing to understand what needed to be done so they could find the best person to fill the role.

We've probably had four people come through from NOVA. Like any staff member they've had strengths and weaknesses but all have worked out. Most have left of their own accord, usually for full-time work somewhere else. Some have got their forklift license which has helped them apply for other jobs in their own right."



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