



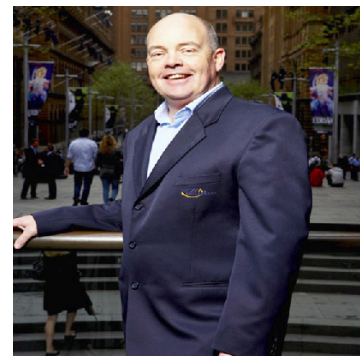
June 2017



### CEO Comment

Martin Wren

*With more than 100 successful employment outcomes the NOVA team brought the financial year to a terrific climax with yet another record month and, most pleasingly of all a continuing improvement in NOVA's already remarkable Apprenticeship & Traineeship program.*



How best to celebrate?

We have started a high profile advertising and promotional campaign that highlights the skills, ability and contribution made by people with disability - this program is recognised as not simply helping us break down barriers for our job seekers but is contributing to improved results for other employment service providers as well.

NOVA remains an 'old school' service with a commitment to people with disability that's placed above all other considerations. You can see that promise shining through in the proportion of full time workers (double national averages), Apprenticeships and Traineeships (almost 15% in June) and

also in the newly released 52 week data where NOVA's performance remains outstanding.

I have spoken before about the importance of 'choice and control', being informed by accurate data. If you would like to compare provider results there's an excellent resource available here: [http://www.wecanwork.info/desktop\\_outcomes\\_by\\_disability\\_type](http://www.wecanwork.info/desktop_outcomes_by_disability_type)

Happy reading!

### NOVA OFFICES

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

*Tushar Menon's decision to listen to his mother, Poornima, has paid dividends.*



His mother suggested hiring staff from NOVA Employment to help with his growing business, My Muscle Chef.

“The idea for the company was mine and my brother’s, but my mum knew where to find the right kind of staff for our business,” he said.

Mr Menon has hired several NOVA Employment clients since and has had no regrets.

Poornima Menon, who is also the company’s chief executive, said her previous job gave her an insight into the good work NOVA Employment and its clients did.

“In a previous life, before I started this job, I was a high school teacher and my background was special education,” she said.

“In my role in education I was the head teacher of student welfare and I used to have NOVA come to our school for their transition to work and community participation programs.

“Having that personal connection from my teaching years, I was already familiar with what they do.

“Working in special ed I knew there was no one-size fits all. I had students that were on the autism disorder spectrum, I’ve worked with kids with intellectual disability and behaviour disorders and each one has to be treated on their own merits.”

The company also hired two more workers as a result of NOVA Employment’s 100 Jobs in 100 Days campaign – which is currently underway.

Check out the full article here <http://www.wollondillyadvertiser.com.au/story/4767692/employees-help-business-succeed/>

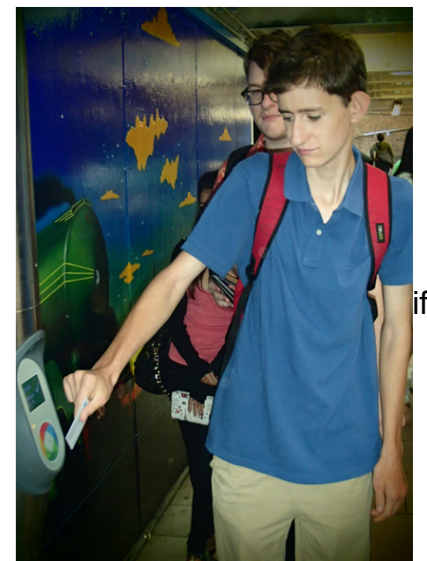
*Working as a team, Springwood and Katoomba Job Coaches joined up for a travel training and train safety of trainees Day Out! A Guest Speaker at the Katoomba train station gave a wonderful talk about the Sydney trains and general public transport travel safety.*



The talk was at Katoomba train Station, so since Springwood trainees were heading to Katoomba, the trainees with Job Coach’s help, looked up train timetable to Katoomba for the talk at 11am and back in Springwood by 3:30pm. The trainees use map and the internet to locate the place, calculating the distance in kilometres and in time. One of the trainees said “I live in Faulconbridge but I haven’t travel alone to Katoomba before”.

The Katoomba train station master took time in their day to explain the correct payment procedures, safety requirements on being both a passenger on the train and passenger waiting to board the train. The talk also covered in details what behaviour is expected from travellers where to put our feet and waiting behind the yellow line. She spoke about what to do trainees fell vulnerable, identifying the Emergency button and its location.

This was a group travelling experiences, a great team learning experience for both the Katoomba trainees and the Springwood trainees.



## 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?



## Martin's Grand Vision

*The FOA Film Festival was set in motion nine years ago at the instigation of NOVA Employment's CEO of 25 years, Martin Wren, whose passion and advocacy for bringing disability into mainstream public consciousness is a driving force behind the festival.*

As the final entries roll in for FOA 2017, we thought we'd take a look at what it means to Martin personally. A lot, it turns out! Although not one of the judges, he is perhaps the keenest fan of all.

"It takes about 20 hours to watch all of the films, 40 hours in total because I watch them twice and then watch a some again," he told us. "It gives you some fantastic insight into what society is thinking. And the great thing about FOA, of course, is it's not just Australian society, it's society all around the world."

As one of the best examples of this, he cites one of FOA's 2014 films about a young African man with the extravagant name 'Blessing Fire'.

"When you listen to Blessing Fire's mum at the start of Walking Tall\*, she cried and cried for days, wouldn't go out with her baby because she was ashamed. In the genuine sense of the word, he is the hero of the film. Blessing Fire is a beautiful young man. Yes, he's got a crook foot but he's a marvellous athlete."

That, for Martin, is the simple heart of every story.

"The theme is 'focus on ability' - the ability demonstrated by people who have to overcome, in some instances, where they are obviously going to end their lives early, and they do it with humour, with grace, with determination. And I think to myself, my God, look at the way these folk cope. There is no excuse - no excuse - for me ever to slack off."

"I don't think, as a person, you can fail to be impressed and inspired by taking ten minutes to see a couple of FOA films. Just get to the end of Mat \*\* and see what Mat has to say."

In the end, Martin sees inclusion as the ultimate goal. "We're all about inclusion. That's why it is free to enter and free to attend."

"FOA strikes a chord, it really does. It reaches out to people and touches them and that's what you need. Because if we're going to get an inclusive society, we've got to change people's attitudes."

\* Witness the extraordinary Blessing Fire [here](#)

\*\* Hear what Mat had to say [here](#)



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