



September 2015



## CEO Comment

*Martin Wren*

### Tremendous Results

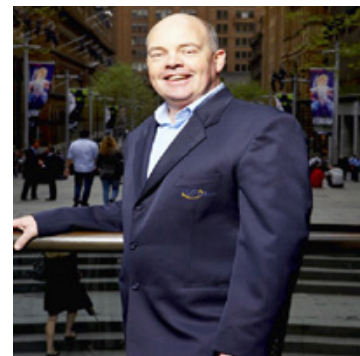
September has been another record breaker for the NOVA team with more jobs being found than at any other time in the organisations history (I seem to be saying that pretty much every month these days!) – A 50% improvement over the same period for last year and a 25 % improvement for the quarter year!

Here are some of the success stories from NOVA's Transition to Work program: <https://www.facebook.com/novatransition>

What's most noticeable?

You might answer the joy of the new workers and the thing for me that is most exceptional is the range of work that the new employees have embarked upon. NOVA's job retention figures are pretty impressive too – with a national average around 35% NOVA placed and supported employees are 50% more likely to stay in their jobs long term.

Why?



NOVA works 'The System' - a revolutionary advance in disability employment provision that manages to integrate individually excellent components into an unbeatable combination that's been tailored to support people with disability in their journey to workplace independence.

We are going to be saying a whole lot more about the package we have created in coming months but it's enough for now to acknowledge the commitment of the new workers, the support of their new employers and the incredible skill shown by every member of our team – NOVA's best results in 25 years: well done all!

## NOVA OFFICES

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

## Focus on Ability Film Awards 2015

Films that change attitudes ...

The 2015 NOVA Focus on Ability (FOA) film awards was held on 9 September at a gala event in Sydney's Concourse Concert Hall. Now in its seventh year, the FOA short film competition awards over \$100,000 in prize money to films that best demonstrate the theme: focus on the ability of people with a disability.



The nearly 800-person audience laughed, cried and, above all, thought about how it might feel to live with a disability.

Winning international entry *Bumblebees* by Jenna Kanell from the United States was a hearty, funny take on what it's like for her brother Vance to live with the challenges of (in his own words) autism, cerebral palsy and epilepsy 'among other things'. Notable Australian entries included *Family First*, which demonstrates a father's honest account of his son's autism and *Dragon Dreaming* a story about Kushia Young a talented young, hearing-impaired artist from Pipalyatjara country.

An initiative of NOVA Employment, this year's competition received 161 entries viewed in 154 different countries. In a speech at the red carpet awards night, Minister John Ajaka praised NOVA for its commitment and ingenuity,

*'You have a genuine passion for everyone you assist. The festival has grown from a great local idea to an international event. There are no limits. These films deliver that message in the best possible way.'*

As well as the awards night, this year NOVA also hosted a Schools Screening for the first time. Approximately 400 people attended the event at Chatwood's



Concourse Concert Hall, many of whom had been involved in the making of one of the films, either on camera or off.

The winning film in the Schools Documentary section won a \$12,000 Smeg Appliance Package for their school with *Captain Jacob*. After seeing the film on the big screen star of the show, 11-year-old Jacob Rushton, said that it, 'Felt quite natural to be up on the screen, because all of his friends were there.' Indeed, Jacob made many more friends on the day with handshakes and congratulations aplenty for this hearty, gutsy film by director Jo-Anne Brechin.

Of the festival, NOVA Employment CEO Martin Wren says,

*'I designed Focus on Ability to get young people – the next decision makers – to favourably consider the ability of their peers who have a disability. This year's selection of films has done that remarkably well. People involved in FOA become champions of people with a disability, such is their change in attitude while exploring the people, issues and themes associated with living with a disability. The hardest thing to change in this world is attitude.'*

These films certainly did that ... one frame at a time.

[To view the 2015 Awards night video and see the full list of winners - click here](#)



### 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?



# Focus on Ability Film Festival - School Screening

Written by Bankstown and Ingleburn TTW

*The day started bright and early. Bankstown TTW trainees leaving from Bankstown Station and Ingleburn trainee's leaving from Ingleburn station.*



We arrived at Chatswood and we started walking over to the Concourse with the other outlets. At the Concourse we entered the hall grabbing our seats with our popcorn and a bottle of water. Ten minutes later the place was full. We were entertained by Paula Duncan who is a famous television star, Inala Ensemble - an instrumental group for people with disabilities, a member of Tribal Warriors playing didgeridoo, Liz Hughes from AFTRS spoke about film courses and there were some great films to be shown: Dying to go to Zombie Valley, Bumblebees, Captain Jacob, Farewell Davide and Caution Zombies.

After the film festival finished Ingleburn and Bankstown TTW decided to have lunch with Liverpool and St Marys trainees. We walked to Westfield-Chatswood shopping centre as a group. It was a very large shopping centre and we all got lost trying to find the food court. Eventually we followed the smell of food cooking.

After lunch we said goodbye and parted ways, heading to the station. We switched trains at Central Station and hopped on the T3 Bankstown Line Train. Ingleburn headed onto their train Line. It was a day full of new experiences, excitement and fun but at the end of the day we felt tired and our feet were sore from all the walking. Sara took several photos of us on the train, annoying us as always. The green light was given by the job coaches it was home time.

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