

# Focus on Ability Short Film Festival - now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year



For 13 years NOVA Employment has presented the Focus on Ability Short Film Festival.

This festival invites film makers to 'Focus on the Ability' of people with a disability to tell a story on film for the world to view.

Despite all the challenges faced in 2020 film makers continued the push and produced 267 entries from 19 countries.

This has laid the foundations for a 2021 festival which is set to be the biggest yet, with sponsors donating over \$100,000 in cash and prizes to encourage film makers and people with disability to tell their stories.

In 2009, NOVA Employment CEO, 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.

He recognised how the power of film can challenge people's fixed beliefs and perceptions about the lives and abilities of people with disability around the world.

NOVA, together with festival ambassador and actress Paula Duncan, bring this festival to the world each year.

The Focus on Ability Film Festival is for people of all talent levels with many first time film makers taking out major prizes. Previous years films have been both educational and inspirational, viewed in 168 countries and voted on by over a million people. Feedback from



those who have viewed the films found these entries have the power to change attitudes and challenge perceptions.

In 2020, 11 films were screened across Australia on SBS and 100 films aired on Foxtel through Aurora TV.

With a growing audience of over a million people, the festival is 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.

There are six categories: Short Film; School Entrant Documentary; Open Entrant Documentary; International Short Film; School Entrant Short Film and International Documentary.

For full festival details and to view the over 1,400 films from years past go to: [www.focusonability.com.au](http://www.focusonability.com.au).