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WORKING WITH DISABILITY | Wetherill Park business gives meaningful work to two new staff

Yasmin Brennan, Nova

Community

Nova Employment Macarthur, which is committed to inclusion, has so far placed 75 people with disability into jobs as part of its current **100 Jobs in 100 Days** campaign in south-west Sydney. That's 75 people who are now taxpayers, representing three-quarters of its program's target with a fortnight to go.



GALLERY | Nova's 100 Jobs in 100 Days program

Two of the newly-employed workers are Fairfield residents **Courtney Dormer**, 17, who's now an apprentice French polisher, and **James Batty**, 37, now working as a French polishing assistant and general hand.

EMPLOYER

Richard Price, owner, Aust-Tech Furniture Wetherill Park:

Tell us about your business. At Aust-Tech Furniture we're specialists in kitchens, joinery and French polishing services and have been for more than 30 years.

Why did you contact Nova? I heard about Nova through a radio ad for their work-to-school transition program. I thought it was incredibly interesting and crucial to the development of younger individuals as we often see those with great potential fall through the cracks.

Tell us about the two new staff you hired through Nova. Courtney and James were hired to be French polishing assistants, which includes preparing and finishing of joinery components. Before joining our team Courtney and James had completed their basic training with Nova. Courtney has now been given an apprenticeship as a French polisher and is in the first year of her training at TAFE.

What changes did you make to hire a person with disability? Minimal. They fitted into our quality-assurance work program very easily. One change we made was to educate our other employees and management on understanding the importance of an inclusive and welcoming work environment.

How is Nova different to other recruitment services? We've really appreciated the consistent support helping us understand and make the most of awards and training programs available to employees, as well as the support they've provided to Courtney and James themselves.

We highly recommend Nova due to their professionalism and effort they put into understanding our business and how we could create an inclusive and appropriate work environment. Using Nova's services let us give more opportunities to people with a disability. When a person gets meaningful employment their ability outshines their disability.

EMPLOYEE

James Batty, 37, of Fairfield:

What does this job mean for you? My life has more financial independence now and I really have a drive to succeed.

Are you saving for anything special? Yes, I'm saving for a holiday.

What do you like most about your job? I like the relaxed atmosphere and the team environment.

EMPLOYEE

Courtney Domer, 17, of Fairfield:

What does this job mean for you? This job has shown me what I can do. And the apprenticeship is going to help open more doors. for me.

Are you saving for anything special? Yes, I'm saving for a car.

What do you like most about your job? I like solving problems and I really like it when I figure out how to overcome different challenges at work.

- Managers can call 0414 238 479 for this free recruitment service.
- novaemployment.com.au
- Aust-Tech Furniture, 231 Cowpasture Road, Wetherill Park, 9725 4038.