

Finding value

What do a chicken shop, a bridal boutique and a gym have in common? All three have discovered the benefits of hiring workers with disability through NOVA Employment.



Scott and Angela at Vasco's Charcoal Chicken in Parramatta.

According to Manager of NOVA Employment Parramatta, Mohamed Bah, smart business owners are realising the advantages of hiring great people who also happen to have a disability.

"We make it easy for employers. We get to know you, your business and what the role entails, and then we match that with people who have the necessary skills," Mohamed said.

"We save business owners the hassle of advertising by pre-screening and providing a short-list of candidates.

"We've found staff for all kinds of businesses. Cleaning companies, real estate agents, bridal shops, gyms, trades and apprenticeships. You name it."

Angela Vassallo, co-owner of family run Vasco's Charcoal Chicken on Church street, Parramatta, hired a kitchen hand through NOVA, and he has become an integral part of the team.

"Scott is hard working, committed and reliable," said Angela.

"He's everything you would want in an employee."

Scott, who has autism, is responsible for a variety of tasks.

"Anything from stocking the drinks, making wraps, serving, cleaning and ongoing jobs that are very helpful in the flow at Vasco's," Angela said.

The benefits are not just one-sided. Scott said the job has been life-changing for him.

"I love working in the kitchen with John and Sash," said Scott of his co-workers.

"They are a great team."

Scott, who was previously unemployed for two years, said working at Vasco's had made him more motivated and confident.

"I am more enthusiastic about life whereas before I got this job, I was having some depression just sitting at home," said Scott, who is eager to learn new skills in food preparation.

"Now, I am much more social too."

Angela said she definitely recommends employers look past disability and focus on 'abilities' when hiring – "because everybody has something to offer".

Nova Employment is a Disability Employment Service for people with disability, based in Sydney.

If you are looking for hard working reliable staff or you are a person with disability who would like to work, contact NOVA Employment on (02) 8886 5800.

www.novaemployment.com.au