

Chambers employment with a difference

By Fiona Roughley



Jobsupport works with people with moderate intellectual disabilities to train and place them into jobs in the regular workforce. Since August 2014 one of its clients, Casey, has been employed by Banco Chambers to assist with administrative tasks. The employment arrangement has been a success for both Banco and Casey. Here is an edited extract of Casey's recent interview with *Bar News*.

What do you do at Banco?

I work at Banco Chambers Monday to Friday, 8:30am – 12pm. I work at Banco Chambers in the Reserve Bank Building first, and then in the Chifley building afterwards. I clean both kitchens (emptying the dishwashers, cleaning the fridges, the coffee machines and the bench-tops), re-stock the drinks, tea and

biscuit containers in the kitchens, and do the monthly stock-take. I also get and sort the mail into barristers' pigeon-holes. I fill up the paper supplies in the photocopiers. My favourite job is taking trolleys to Court.

Do you like working at Banco?

Yes. I really like it. I like having a job. Working in an office environment has helped me to be able to live independently [Casey started living independently two months ago]. The wage helps me pay the bills. I also like getting dressed up and coming to the city. Everyone at Banco is nice and helpful and friendly.

Who do you report to at Banco?

Elizabeth Notman [clerk of Banco] is my boss. I also have a Maintenance Officer

from Jobsupport, Lora, who checks in with Elizabeth and me weekly to see how things are going. I call Lora, or she comes in, if I need more support.

What did you do before you started working at Banco?

I worked in a factory for people with disabilities, run by Civic (an Australian Disability Enterprise). I have been working for seven years.

What are your interests outside Banco?

I like going out with friends to the movies. I also compete in ten-pin bowling and swimming at the Special Olympics. Last year I represented NSW for ten-pin bowling for the National Team at the Special Olympics.

PRACTICE

Fiona Roughley, 'Chambers employment with a difference'



Jobsupport

Jobsupport matches a client with an intellectual disability with a job designed for him or her.

Jobs are specifically designed by an employer, in consultation with Jobsupport, to ensure that each placement works well for both employer and the client.

Placements typically involve repetitive or routine work. It is the kind of work that is ideal for Jobsupport's clients but which frequently can lead to high-turnover of other staff. It is also the kind of work that all employers need done, but which can divert other staff's attention from other, more complex

tasks. Many employers use a Jobsupport placement as a way to release under-utilised staff for other tasks, and also to assist with lowering staff-turnover.

Currently Jobsupport has 640 clients placed with employers in Sydney and Melbourne.

When a client first starts with an employer, Jobsupport provides free intensive on-site training to the client. Thereafter each client has a Maintenance Officer who provides ongoing support on an as-needs basis, usually weekly or fortnightly. The ongoing training is also provided at no cost to the employer.

More information?

For more information on Jobsupport or how a placement might work for your chambers, contact:

Elizabeth Notman
Clerk, Banco Chambers
8931 0200

or

Sally Trotter
Manager
Jobsupport
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