

## **CareerSystems proving invaluable to local businesses**

Only five percent of South Australian companies currently accept jobseekers for placement or training, but in Mount Barker that number is 20 percent thanks to organisations like CareerSystems – Bedford's community employment service – which is assisting local businesses to realise the value of this opportunity.

Enjoying an established relationship with CareerSystems Mount Barker, Adelaide Hills Toyota is one example of a local business reaping the benefits of hiring a jobseeker to undertake on-the-job training.

The dealership recently hired 30-year old CareerSystems employee Scott Kuchel to undertake two days work experience per week.

Adelaide Hills Toyota Director Tom Gilbert said training given to eager job seekers had mutual benefits..

"Adelaide Hills Toyota was approached by CareerSystems to assist in the training placement of Scott. Given our past success with CareerSystems, we didn't hesitate in welcoming him," Mr Gilbert said.

"It's a win-win. We are able to help in the development of a young person and we gain another member of our team for the duration of the placement."

CareerSystems offers options and opportunities for employers and people with disability or disadvantage in South Australia. It provides job placement services, work experience, training and support across multiple industries including hospitality, small business, horticulture, retail and manufacturing.

Scott came to CareerSystems thirteen years ago, having struggled to find work independently due to a lack of self confidence stemming from various personal challenges.

For the past ten years he has worked as a night fill attendant for a major grocery chain, but approached CareerSystems seeking new challenges and a desire to pursue an interest in cars.

CareerSystems provided Scott with training in motor mechanics through the Australian Apprenticeship Access Programme, including five weeks of work at Adelaide Hills Toyota and thirteen weeks of further training.

In this time, Scott moved out of home and is now living independently for the first time. In the long term he looks forward to a career in car detailing.

While Mount Barker businesses are more willing to assist jobseekers than many others, there are still many more job seekers in the area and people with disability or disadvantage who are challenged to find work due to lack of public transport and restricted access to training and health services.

In addition, many of the placements currently available are often general processing and labouring positions rather than trades and apprenticeships, which are desperately needed in the region.

Bedford Chief Executive Max Dyason said he hoped success stories like Scott's would inspire more businesses to consider partnerships with CareerSystems to strengthen their workforce.

“CareerSystems has many willing job seekers eager to give their all to a new employer,” Mr Dyason said.

“Scott is a great example of someone taking the initiative to change their situation and his trainers at Adelaide Hills Toyota were clearly impressed by the job he did.

“CareerSystems will do whatever it takes to support job seekers and provide appropriate services to learn the new skills required by the employer. We work with both parties to tailor-make an effective programme.”

For businesses interested in the programmes available through CareerSystems Mount Barker please contact (08) 8398 5073.

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