

## EPIC brings fresh approach to employment

EPIC's participants can expect a new approach to their employment journey when they visit their local service centre in the coming months.

EPIC is committed to providing a service where you as the customer have more control over your employment journey, and the new EPIC Engage framework was created to reflect this.

Some sites have already begun to deliver the new service framework, with all other EPIC sites rolling out over the next month or so.

So, what can you expect from EPIC Engage?

- Choice when it comes to your employment consultant and the way you approach to getting a job.
- A collaborative process where you get to choose the activities you wish to engage in as part of your job seeking journey.
- More opportunities to engage with EPIC staff from other areas via video conferencing.
- The same ongoing support that EPIC has always provided.

We are here to work with your skills and goals and make your journey to employment an enjoyable and fulfilling one.

## EPIC expands into new areas



EPIC is excited to announce that from July 2018, we will be operating in several new areas, giving us the opportunity to deliver employment services to more people with disability. The new areas extend our footprint in QLD, NSW, VIC and the ACT and include:

- Ipswich, QLD
- Macarthur, NSW
- Canterbury/Bankstown, NSW
- Central Western Sydney, NSW
- ACT/ Queanbeyan, ACT/ NSW
- Bayside, VIC
- Maroondah, VIC
- Monash, VIC
- Plenty, VIC

If you know someone in these areas who would benefit from EPIC's services, tell them to get in touch by phoning **13 EPIC (13 3742)** or emailing [info@epicassist.org](mailto:info@epicassist.org).

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To connect with your local  
EPIC Service Centre  
call **13 EPIC (13 3742)**  
or email us on  
[info@epicassist.org](mailto:info@epicassist.org)  
[epicassist.org](http://epicassist.org)



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# CEO update by Bill Gamack

Like many of you, I have spent a significant amount of time in early April glued to the television watching the 2018 Commonwealth Games from the Gold Coast!

The lasting memory I will have is the inclusion (for the first time) of people with disabilities - the 'para-athletes' on the same program as their 'able-bodied' counterparts. As our great paralympic gold medalist Kurt Fearnley said, "Inclusion's working - we're nailing this". He spoke of the support the para-athletes enjoyed from spectators across the various venues.

We need to join with Kurt and now take the next step of ensuring that in workplaces across Australia that inclusion and diversity are reflected in all their forms. EPIC is working hard to identify the significant talent and skills that people with disability possess and work with them, their families and employers to make a significant difference in their lives and enable them to be part of what our para-athletes have experienced. The bottom line is, it's about being included and being able to participate!



## SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS Village Roadshow Theme Parks

Village Roadshow Theme Parks are focusing on capabilities when it comes to employment.

"We employ attitudes and train skills," said Dean Humphreys, Deputy Chief Financial Officer and General Manager of People and Culture.

The theme park group, which includes Warner Bros. Movie World on the Gold Coast, employed EPIC participant Tayah to work in the Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Shop.

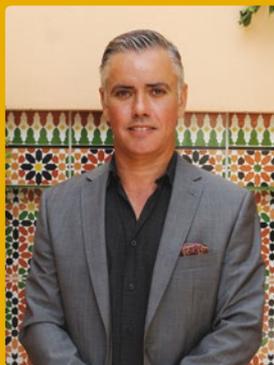
"We've seen Tayah's growth be unbelievable in a short amount of time" Dean said.

"She's got this genuine love for people that fits into our environment perfectly."

"I feel supported and it's a safe environment," said Tayah.

"Employing people with disability helps us understand our customers. We want to represent the broader Australian population," Dean said.

"Why wouldn't you employ a person with disability? Everybody wants to be relevant and part of a community. Everybody has strengths. Focus on the strengths."



Village Roadshow Deputy Chief Financial Officer and General Manager of People and Culture, Dean Humphreys

## Michelle's journey of a thousand steps

Nine years ago, Michelle Owens' life was turned upside down when a car accident left her with an acquired brain injury. Previously, Michelle worked as a GP in the Logan area.

Michelle hasn't worked since her car accident however built her own capacity to a point where she is motivated and driven to go back into employment.

"What I've learnt on this journey which really helps me, is taking baby steps, and recognising that those small steps are part of the long journey," said Michelle.

EPIC Employment Consultant Aislinn has been working with Michelle for the past year.

"I've watched Michelle's capacity continue to increase - both from what we did through our appointments but also through the opportunities that were presented to her," said Aislinn.

Michelle is currently looking for part time administrative work in the Logan area. Please contact EPIC's Woodridge office on (07) 3290 5364 with any opportunities.



Job seeker Michelle Owens is ready for an employer to take a chance

## Tell us what you think about the Enquirer and win!

At EPIC, we value your feedback. We want to know what you want to see more of (or less of) in The Enquirer. Would you prefer to keep receiving it in the mail, or in an electronic version via email? What can we do to improve?

Answer a short 5 question survey and you will go into the draw to win a \$50 Club EPIC voucher!

Head to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EnquirerFeedback2018> to complete the survey.

Survey closes 30 June 2018. Follow us on Facebook to see the winner announced.

# Job seeker's positive feedback on the EPIC Engage trial

EPIC is committed to delivering a customised approach to your employment journey and is excited to be rolling out our new service delivery framework EPIC Engage, across our footprint in the coming months.

Here's what job seekers who have been part of the EPIC Engage trial are saying:

“

All staff were kind and supportive. Highly professional. Maybe other Government funded competition should be based on their business model.

**Margaret**”

“

Amazing support for me, assisting me with not only getting back into the workforce, but with the confidence I have gained from the guidance my wonderful employment consultant made me feel very special, not just a number. I have referred EPIC to the facility I did my course through because of the support. Thank you.

**Nicole**”

“

I felt like I was treated as an actual person unlike past JSA's that treated me as another task who didn't matter. They also tried to help me find work instead of just ticking boxes and making sure that I followed my requirements. They ended up finding the job that I am in now and they went to the effort of making sure the company I am working for suited me.

**Stanley**”

“

They are always friendly and very accommodating and helpful. They're a breath of fresh air compared to other organisations with average service.

**Brett**”

## Have you joined Club EPIC?

Club EPIC is our exclusive savings and rewards program, and it's now available to all participants and volunteers.

Through Club EPIC, members can buy gift vouchers at a reduced price and use them instore at places such as Kmart, Coles, Target, as well as be rewarded with shopping points for every dollar you spend.

Visit [epicassist.org/club-epic/](http://epicassist.org/club-epic/) or email [clubepic@epicassist.org](mailto:clubepic@epicassist.org) for more information on how to join.



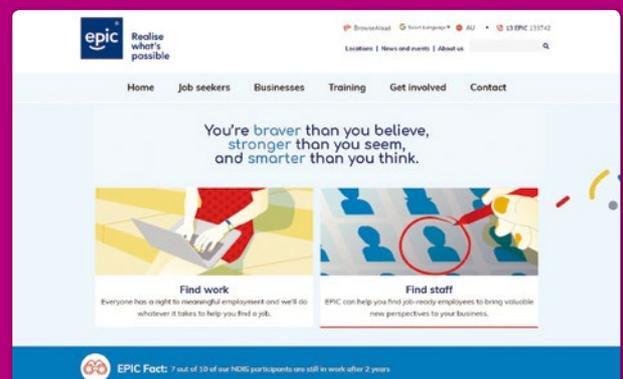
## Check out EPIC's new website!

You told us, we listened.

The EPIC website has been redesigned and written with you in mind.

Next time you visit [epicassist.org](http://epicassist.org), you'll see a fresh, friendly new look with lots of local content.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions via [marketing@epicassist.org](mailto:marketing@epicassist.org) or the Contact Us section on the website.



# EPIC events

## BRISBANE PARTICIPANT EVENTS BIMONTHLY DINNER

We'd love to have dinner with you!

Our dinners are a great way to connect with other job seekers and members of the EPIC community, relax and have some laughs over a casual meal. Bring a friend or family member and join the fun.

Please call the Windsor office on (07) 3857 5085 to confirm your attendance

Meals cost around \$15.  
Dinner starts at 5:30pm.

### Kedron-Wavell Services Club HQ Cafe Thursday 7 June

21 Kittyhawk Drive (off Hamilton Road),  
Chermside South

### Albany Creek Tavern Thursday 2 August

730 Albany Creek Road,  
Albany Creek



## GLOBAL DATES

### MAY

65 Roses (Cystic Fibrosis)

### 13 May

Mother's Day

### 17 May

Global Accessibility Awareness Day

### 20-27 May

Schizophrenia Awareness Week

### 24 May

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

### 26 May

National Sorry Day

### 27 May - 3 June

National Reconciliation Week

### 29 May

Wear White at Work  
(suicide awareness)

### 30 May

World Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Day

### JUNE

Bowel Cancer Awareness Month

### 14 June

World Blood Donor Day

### 21 June

Motor Neurone Disease Day

### 8 - 15 July

NAIDOC Week

# EPIC PEOPLE

“

It's a warm and friendly environment. The EPIC people are all too happy to help in anyway they can.

**Ashley**”

“

Having positivity is difficult when feeling so down. If we all could be more like those at EPIC, our levels of accomplishment and compassion would be higher than it is now.

**Tara**”

“

The staff are very good at their jobs and unlike some other service providers, they actually care about their clients and their wellbeing.

**Robyn**”

“

EPIC is the only organisation that has empathy for the unique lives people live.

**Tina**”

## Tips from EPIC

### Health

Exercise makes you motivated and releases endorphins which can improve your mood. It has been proven to lower levels of anxiety and depression as well as improving fitness levels. A short walk a few times a week can make a big difference.

### Wellbeing

Hang out with positive people. Seeing and hearing positive often translates to thinking and feeling positive. Focus on the things you can change instead of the things you can't.

### Work

Having the right attitude is just as important as having the right skills. Attitude impacts on many aspects of the workplace. Show an employer that you are positive and willing to learn.

### Finance

Make bite size money goals. In addition to focusing on big goals, aim to also set smaller, short term goals that reap quicker results, such as saving for a short trip away or new computer.

### Self care

Regularly do an activity that you find relaxing. Put aside time every day to do something that you really enjoy, such as going for a walk, gardening, listening to music or reading.