

Serving up more than jobs in Bundaberg

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EPIC is passionate about providing a holistic approach to our job seekers

24 job seekers connected with the EPIC Bundaberg team have been served up more than jobs this June, taking part in a Jamie's Ministry of Food program to learn practical cooking skills.

Over five-weeks, participants learnt how to whip up affordable and healthy meals that can be made on the fly. For EPIC job seeker Leisa, the unique program has been the perfect way to connect with other job seekers from EPIC and explore healthier cooking practices.

"It's good to learn all the new menus and different ways to make healthier meals," says Leisa.

Leisa says that the hands-on experience is helping her take control of her life.

"The freedom has been my favourite part. You get to do everything yourself, which is a great experience," says Leisa.

Kelly O'Brien, Regional Coordinator says that the program is a great example of the support that EPIC provides to job seekers on their employment journey.

"We're really passionate about providing holistic support to our job seekers. Our ultimate goal is for people with disability to find sustainable employment and live happy and productive lives," explains Kelly.



Welcome to the Spring edition of EPIC Enquirer

EPIC prides itself on providing a holistic approach to our job seekers on their journey to employment, and beyond.

In this edition you'll read about Brayden and Jack, who are studying to complete certificates in retail and horticulture respectively, and job seekers in Bundaberg who recently learnt cooking skills through Jamie's Ministry of Food program.

Whether you need training to upskill and move towards a new career, advice on wellbeing, or ongoing support once in employment, EPIC is with you each step of the way.

EPIC Enquirer is distributed to connect and inspire more than 3,500 job seekers across Australia who are being supported by EPIC on their employment journey. If you would like to receive EPIC Enquirer in your letterbox you can subscribe at bit.ly/EPICenquirer.

To connect with your local EPIC Service Centre call 13 EPIC (13 3742) or email us on hello@epicassist.org
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CEO update by Bill Gamack

Welcome to the Spring edition of the EPIC Enquirer.

I wanted to take this opportunity to pick up on insights recently from two champions of disability - Karni Liddell and Dylan Alcott.

Karni encouraged society to change their mindset of people with disability from "less than" to equal.

Dylan, after winning the 'Most Popular New Talent' at the recent Logie Awards, asked everyone to give people with disability (like him) an opportunity too, "because there's a lot of bloody talented people out there."

In our changing world, there is one certainty - the list of issues to be resolved will continue to grow and challenge society everywhere.

The expertise needed to solve these issues will not come from being the same, but from different ways of thinking, and problem solving skills born out of difference and diversity; which is where we come in.

At EPIC, we celebrate difference and all that comes with it. We'll work with you to highlight your skills and find employment opportunities to suit your needs.

Inclusion on the menu at Maryborough café

Owner of Maryborough's POPIN on Kent café, Deb, knows that the staff members she has employed through EPIC are (in the words of the café's namesake Mary Poppins), "practically perfect in every way."

Since late 2018, Deb has brought on five job seekers in customer service and kitchen hand roles. She says that the support EPIC has provided along the entire journey has made all the difference.

"It's been a great experience. Looking back to when they first started to now, they've just come out of their shell and progressed so much," says Deb.

Rachel Azzopardi, Regional Coordinator, says that POPIN café is a great example of an inclusive and understanding employer that goes the extra mile.

"It's really excellent to see an organisation that puts diversity and inclusion at the forefront of their business," says Rachel. "We're passionate about finding the right person for the right role. Our goal is sustainable employment, and POPIN café are really serving up wonderful opportunities for people with disability."

For Deb, it means everything to be an inclusive employer and she wouldn't have it any other way. Every day, her employees bring their best to the café and they certainly make it who it is today.



EPIC job seekers Sarah and Gavin are just the cup of tea for POPIN café owner Deb

Garden maintenance a dream job for Jack

At EPIC we are committed to finding participants meaningful employment that they love.

The EPIC team at Tweed Heads first sat down with Jack in April. Jack had completed a Cert II & Cert III in horticulture and dreamed of having a job in gardening. EPIC was able to set him up with a work trial at House with No Steps. Jack excelled there but unfortunately was unable to get a paid position.

However, Jack did not give up, and was offered a 2-day work trial at Village Roadshow. Jack was the perfect fit for the role and was offered the position in garden maintenance at Movie World on the Gold Coast.

Village Roadshow have committed to Jack obtaining his Cert IV in horticulture by the end of his first 6 months, and EPIC is now in the process of helping Jack get his manual driver licence, so he can drive company vehicles.

When talking to Jack about his experience he said, "I have my dream job and cannot thank Pat and the Tweed team enough."

We are incredibly excited for Jack and we are certain he will be a long term valued member of the Village Roadshow Team.



Jack is proud to be working in a role he loves

Everything's stacking up for Brayden at IKEA

We recently chatted to Brayden, a young man on the autism spectrum who has been studying Retail with EPIC Education Assist (RTO ID 41218).

Over the last 6 months, Brayden has been completing the work experience component of his SIR20216 Certificate II in Retail Services at IKEA, North Lakes. IKEA Self-Serve Team Leader Jess says she's seen real improvements in Brayden's initiative and willingness to solve problems on his own.

"Instead of coming up to us now and asking, 'What do you need me to do?', he will generally just go onto the floor, do a walk of the aisles, and just know what to do," says Jess.

"He's also shown he is excellent at receiving constructive feedback. He takes feedback openly, which is something you don't always see. We were really pleased with that."

Brayden hopes to use his traineeship with EPIC as a stepping stone to gain transferrable skills that will support his eventual goal of joining the Police Dog Squad. Jess says it is incredible the range of experiences Brayden will have under his belt in just one year.

"When Brayden finishes his traineeship at IKEA with EPIC, he will have so much experience with customers and working with people," says Jess.

"It gives him that step forward in his career, because everyone is looking for a career. It's no different for people with disability."

Check out the EPIC Assist website for more information on our Business and Retail training courses.



Brayden has gained a wide range of skills during his work experience at IKEA



Seeking artists to shift perspectives in annual exhibition

Each year EPIC supports professional and emerging artists with disability in our annual art exhibition. For many of our artists, this event sparks a passion for art and helps launch their career as artists. The exhibition is free to enter, and artists receive 100% of profits if their artwork is sold.

Now in its 5th consecutive year, the exhibition has become a much-loved celebration of International Day of People with Disability.

This year's theme, 'Shifting Perspectives,' calls on you to alter your view point and see things in a new way. When you engage with this exhibit you are asked to consider different points of view, attitudes and to understand these artworks, our contributing artists, and our place in society.

Artist submissions are open now and close 31 August. The exhibition will run from 29 October - 10 November 2019 at Graydon Gallery in New Farm, Brisbane.

To submit artwork for Shifting Perspectives, please visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/ShiftingPerspectives or contact marketing@epicassist.org with any questions.



EPIC Events

MY FUTURE FEST - GRAFTON

Young people in the Clarence Valley are being offered a unique opportunity to discover their passion by attending My Future Fest - a one stop shop for local youth covering career, training and health.

TAFE NSW - Grafton campus

20 August 9.30am - 2pm
7 Clarence St, Grafton, NSW

FRESH FUTURES MARKET - IPSWICH

People with disability, their carers and families are invited to this free event, where they can participate in workshops and connect with stallholders representing mainstream and disability-specific services, businesses and employment opportunities.

Railway Museum

4 September 9am - 1pm
North Street, North Ipswich

PRIDE FAIR DAY - BRISBANE

The Brisbane Pride Fair Day is an all-ages family friendly event, including entertainment, food vendors and over 100 community stalls.

New Farm Park

21 September 11am-6pm
Brunswick Street, New Farm

EPIC is proud to be part of the above events.



GLOBAL DATES

19-25 August

Brain Injury Awareness Week

10 September

World Suicide Prevention Day

12 September

R U OK? Day

21-27 September

National Week of Deaf People

October

Down Syndrome Awareness Month

6 October

World Cerebral Palsy Day

10 October

World Mental Health Day

10 October

World Sight Day

Feedback from participants



The staff make me feel like I'm an individual, as opposed to just another number. I feel understood emotionally and physically. I truly feel they have my best interests at heart.

Kristian



Everyone at EPIC is friendly and willing to go beyond for their clients.

Monica



EPIC's support has a holistic approach and their friendly staff take a personal interest. For me, they are a one stop shop to new horizons.

Peter



Do you know someone unsatisfied with their job search provider?

Send them to EPIC!

EPIC's holistic approach means we care about the whole individual throughout the job seeking journey, and beyond.

At EPIC we understand a 'one size fits all' approach doesn't work. We take the time to get to know your individual talents, skills and personality. If you need some training to reach your goals, we'll help organise it. And when you're ready, we'll help you find a job that you're proud of.

We provide mental health support services to help with strategies which promote positive mental health and wellbeing. We provide on-the-job training and support once you are employed, working alongside you in your workplace for as long as you need us - that could be six months, a year or longer.

That's where EPIC is different to other providers - we're here for the long run. We won't just find you a job, we are committed to helping you keep your job.

If you know someone who could benefit from the ongoing support of the EPIC team, tell them to get in touch by calling 13 EPIC (13 3742) or emailing us on hello@epicassist.org

