INCLUSIVE WORKPLACE AWARDS
CELEBRATE DISABILITY AWARENESS

The contribution that local employers make to social inclusion of people with a disability by providing work experience opportunities and employment was celebrated at an awards breakfast.

Employment is a vitally important element in social inclusion for people with a disability. “The provision of work experience opportunities that assist people with a disability to learn work-related skills and to demonstrate their abilities in a real work situation is really important,” said Kim Radford, National Disability Coordination Officer, “it is an important stepping stone to employment.”

GippsTAFE hosted the ‘Inclusive Workplace Provider Awards’ event at the Waratah Restaurant in Morwell on Monday November 29, in alignment with the International Day of People with Disability on December 3, 2010.

GippsTAFE CEO Dr Peter Whitley, spoke at the awards ceremony and highlighted the importance of the opportunities these businesses provided.

GippsTAFE was a particularly appropriate host for this Latrobe Valley event as its GETT Centre provides learning and training opportunities for many people with barriers to learning, including those with disabilities.

The GETT Centre works with people who have experienced difficulties in traditional educational settings, with staff helping clients identify potential fields of employment, giving them access to suitable training opportunities, and then working with employers to match them to a workplace. It also provides support through the employment process to help the employer and new staff member settle in.

GippsTAFE GETT Centre Team Leader, Michael Duncan, said the event on Monday provided an important opportunity to recognise the good work of local employers and celebrate the successes that both employers and employees had enjoyed.
“There are examples of how this can be a successful partnership all round, with employers gaining good employees and the individuals having the opportunity to engage in different workplaces,” he said, “The aim of the awards is to showcase the contribution people with disability make to society and also to showcase their involvement in the community and in everyday activities.”

Award recipients included:

- Claudia’s Café
- Morwell Taxis
- Ashleigh House
- Ross Maddaluno Real Estate
- WR Cleaning
- Heritage Manor
- Neilson Builders
- Moe Life Skills
- Old Gippsland Heritage Park
- Tryhon’s Supermarket
- Henry Street Cellars
- Pizza Boys
- Laser Plumbing
- Central Gippsland Health Service
- GIPPSTAFE
- Manny’s Market
- BIG W Midvalley
- Hair Pzazz
- World of Beauty

Each of these businesses was recognised for the opportunities they have provided to people with a disability.

With one in five Australians experiencing some degree of disability, it is vital their abilities, achievements and contributions are promoted and acknowledged.

International Day of People with Disability was established in 1992 by the United Nations General Assembly to promote awareness of the contributions and experiences of people with disability.