

## **Community Business recognised for Employing People with a Disability**

Community Employment Options Inc won the Prime Minister's Employer of the Year Award for excellence in the employment of people with a disability as a Provider of Australian Government Employment Services (PAGES).

Peter Callaghan, Chief Executive of Community Employment Options Inc accepted the Award at a function in the Great Hall, Parliament House, recently.

Mr Callaghan said that the Award was recognition of the commitment of the Organisation, its Board members and staff to "live what we promote".

He encouraged all employers to consider the benefits of employing people who experienced barriers to employment.

"With little or no changes to the workplace, people with a disability and other disadvantaged job seekers can easily be included into and become vital, contributing members of a work group"

About 700,000 people in Australia experience disability and an estimated 1 million people experience some sort of barrier to accessing the labour market.

"This group represents a significant, underutilised workforce that can part-way solve the skills and labour shortages experienced in Australia at the moment" Mr Callaghan said.

Community Employment Options Inc employs 70 staff. 20% of employees experience a disability and 5% of staff identified as Indigenous Australians.

The longest serving person with a disability commenced with the Organisation in April, 1996.

The Organisation was nominated for the Prime Minister's Award by our Human Resource Management partners Human Factor Australia Pty Ltd. Human Factor Australia provides strategic and practical Human Resource Management support.

One of the HFA Company Directors has a son with a disability who has become a valued member of the CEO Inc team, after completing an Office Traineeship.

Community Employment Options Inc is a community business providing individualised employment services throughout Central Queensland and Wide Bay Burnett.

We assist about 1000 people with disabilities and other Welfare to Work target groups through a range of Australian and Queensland Government programs including DEN Capped and Uncapped, JPET, Get Set for Work, Skilling Queensland, Greencorp and labour supply.