



Spring 2011



Commercial Enterprises UPDATE

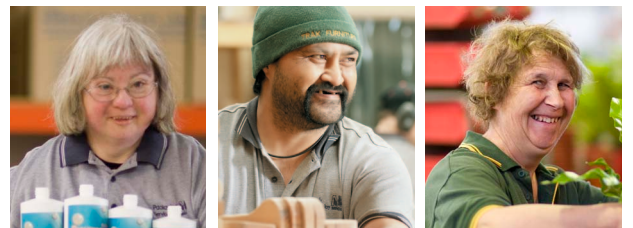
We are now in the second semester of school, which means we are half way through the year. It is around this time of year when people start to think about new employment, life after school or the next steps in life.

Many of us take for granted the fact that it is quite easy for us to find employment, and we look at employment as just a job, not thinking of the benefits that come with it.

We sometimes forget a job is more than just working. Working can build confidence, help people learn to work with others to achieve a goal, enable new friendships to develop, create a focus in life, and contribute towards gaining financial independence.

At Minda we understand this and strive to constantly improve. This is why we want you to come and see what we have to offer. Everything we do at Minda is aimed at increasing employment opportunities, life skills, and the self-esteem and confidence of individuals with a disability.

Minda offers a variety of supported employment opportunities, both on campus at Brighton and within the community at various locations - including Lonsdale (Packaging Solutions and Trak Furniture), Blackwood (Craigburn Nursery), and Somerton Park (Packaging Solutions). In each of these areas there is the opportunity to learn relevant industry based skills.



Supported Employment opportunities may be available to people with a disability who are:

- > seeking employment
- > over 16 years of age
- > eligible for the disability support pension
- > able to work at least 8 hours per week

Work experience/transition to supported employment can be arranged for final year school students.

Supported employment offers individuals the opportunity to contribute their skills and abilities as part of the workforce. Employees receive a wage, and are able to learn new skills and build their confidence, self-esteem and status within the community.

If this sounds like you, or someone you know, give Aaron Byrne, Recruitment and Promotions Developmental Educator a call, on 8422 6223 to arrange a meeting and worksite visit.



**Australian
Disability
Enterprises**
More than just good business

We Can Do It

Commercial Enterprises



With the second semester of the school year having recently arrived, many students are thinking of their life after school and what this may hold for them.

One option for students to discover what they may be interested in is to take part in work experience, something we offer and encourage here at Minda. Whilst still at school students should try to undertake a number of work experiences, as the first thing you choose may not be what you want to do long-term.

Very often students who have done work experience within their final year of school find the job they want. When this happens students have the opportunity to combine school whilst working, taking part in a transition to work program, making the process of leaving school and starting work a smoother one.

Commercial Enterprises Employee Profile Daniel Traeger

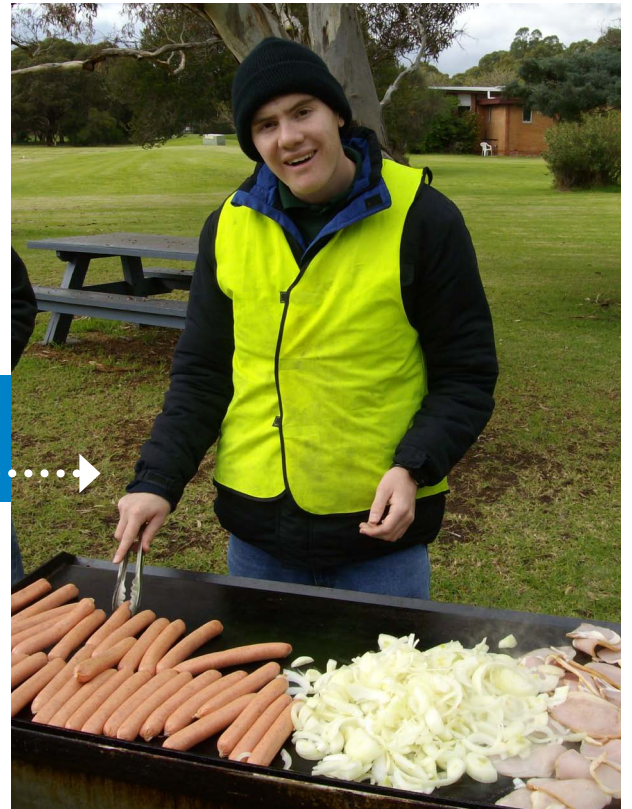
One individual that is currently completing a transition to work program is Daniel, who now works as part of the Envirocare/Grounds crew at Minda's Brighton campus, taking care of the garden and grounds.

Daniel travels from Lamaroo to Adelaide with his mother every Sunday, working Monday and Tuesday before returning home to go to school for the rest of the week. Daniel found it hard to find appropriate, suitable work, close to home. He tried to organise work experience at other organisations but his support needs could not be met in those areas.

When someone suggested Minda to his mother she contacted Specialist Resource Services, who organised some initial work experience. Although Minda was a long way from Lamaroo, Daniel needed to find something that would be of interest to him.

Having lived on a farm with his family all his life - where he learnt many skills associated with working on a farm - working outdoors was something that appealed to him. With the support of Minda staff and his family Daniel had little trouble fitting in with other supported workers, and quickly picked up new skills whilst building on the ones he had before.

When his two week work experience finished Daniel participated in a placement review, which resulted in being offered permanent part-time employment for two days a week.



This transition to work program will be monitored each term with the aim of increasing his hours when he finishes school.

Sometimes students may feel a little nervous or unsettled by the thought of undertaking work experience by themselves and this is where a small group experience can be a good start. This allows students to get a feel for a certain work area or style of work with their peers. Whilst it doesn't always give a true indication of what a real work day is like, it allows students to get a feel for certain jobs and work environments.

Within the next term, two schools will be participating in such a program - within the Laundry and Grounds/Envirocare. This is only the second time such a program has been undertaken and we are hoping to have groups doing such a program each term.



For more information on Minda's Commercial Enterprises, contact:

Trak Furniture 16 Aldershot Road, Lonsdale SA 5160	8382 9599
Minda Brighton Campus King George Avenue, Brighton SA 5048	8422 6200
> Laundry Services	8422 6398
> Envirocare	8422 6200
> Catering Services	8422 6200
> Cleaning Crews	8422 6200

Craigburn Nursery 36 Fergusson Avenue, Craigburn Farm SA 5051	8278 8229
Packaging Solutions	
> Lonsdale 10 Sheriffs Road, Lonsdale SA 5160	8326 2900
> Somerton Park 16 Bowker Street, Somerton Park SA 5044	8296 9054

Visit www.mindainc.com.au to find out what Minda's Commercial Enterprises can offer!