

NEWS

Job breakthrough

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FINDING it hard to get a job? Maybe the time has come to head out to Blacktown.

AS NSW alarmingly rose to a nation-topping 6.9 per cent unemployment rate recently, a Blacktown-based employment agency bucked the trend by offering a ray of hope in all the doom and gloom.

Break Thru Employment Solutions placed 4,000 of its candidates into employment in the past 12 months.

Break Thru chief Ross Lewis says while many employment agencies have crumbled, Break Thru will expand.

They will have 19 new offices, three part-time outreach offices and the expansion of most other offices throughout Australia.

Mr Lewis, from the agency's head office in Blacktown, believe they enjoy success because they put the best interests of the jobseeker first.

"We really take pride in getting to know our clients to make sure we get them the right job, and it's something they want to do," he said.

"Employing our jobseekers is not an act of charity but makes good business sense. We're here for the jobseeker, a common vision among staff."

While Break Thru aims to provide jobs for workers across the board, he said helping jobseekers with disadvantages had proved pivotal to their success.

"I think it is quite significant in separating us from some other agencies, we've got a good track record in helping jobseekers with barriers – including mental illness, disability, long-term unemployment, and many others," he said.



Good job: Fred Jaber has gained a boost from the guidance of Break Thru.

Seven Hills resident Fred Jaber is just one of many of their success stories.

The 32-year-old, who has cerebral palsy, last had a job in 2001 before he spent time living in Lebanon. On his return to Australia, he spent two years looking for work before turning to Break Thru.

Break Thru didn't take long to find him a job at Bunnings in Lidcombe where, they say, he has proven to be one outstanding worker.

Working in the shelf-hardware department, he has earned three customer service awards in his seven months on the job.

"They're good people at Break Thru, they understand what you want and prepare you really well," Mr Jaber said.

Mr Jaber said his Break Thru employment consultant, Adrian Pereira, even goes to the extent of checking up on how he is doing and regularly gives him a lift home from work.