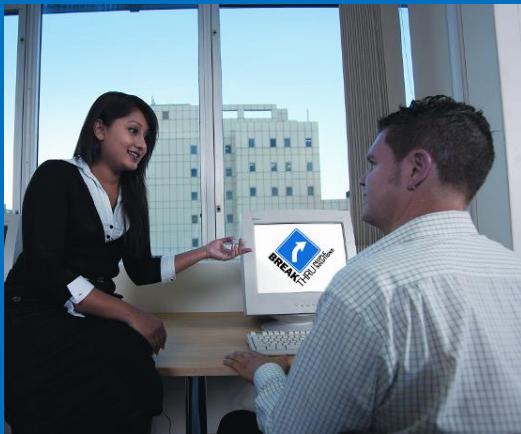


WORKING WITH BARRIERS

FOR JOB SEEKERS WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS AND DRUG AND ALCOHOL ISSUES

In 2009, Break Thru asked some of our clients' support persons (such as family members or close friends) to talk to us about some of the issues they thought were important when people with a mental illness are looking for work. **Some of the main things told to us were:**

- > Job seekers with a mental illness want to work, and are hard workers if given the opportunity
- > Family members and carers themselves need more information about how to best support job seekers and about services like Break Thru.
- > Family members and carers have unique knowledge about job seekers which would be of value to employers and employment support planning
- > Special arrangements can be necessary to assist job seekers with mental illness. Specialised (mental health) employment services can provide more understanding and personalised support than non specialist employment services.



What will the next steps be?

These results are part of Working with Barriers - a larger research project that Break Thru is conducting with the University of Sydney. The research studies the experiences of jobseekers with mental illness and drug and alcohol issues. In 2010 Break Thru will continue to talk to jobseekers across Break Thru about the issues involved in looking for work. The final results of the project will be released at the end of this year.

A **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed!



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Breaking thru barriers, creating futures.

