

SHARING MICRO-BUSINESS IDEAS

Youth With Disabilities Teach Each Other About Micro-business

Contact Project Manager: Dr. Annick Janson (fast.track.inclusion.trust@gmail.com)

Project Vision

Disabled youth shape their professional lives.

Youth capitalise on their strengths to gain or create meaningful self-employment.

WHY?

As our youth matures, the need to live meaningfully whilst contributing becomes more acute. Striving to become financially independent rather than collect a benefit, many are unable to cope with the intricate social side of the workplace thus remain unemployable. Their only hope may be to shape their own opportunity by getting help answering the burning question 'Could I start my own business?'

This is possible through a storytelling methodology enabling them to learn from peers who manage their own micro-businesses. This project implements Social Innovation as defined by the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship in Oxford - new ideas that work to meet pressing unmet needs and improve peoples' lives - about old and new methods for mobilizing the natural intelligence that exists within any society.

SAMPLES OF OUR WORK BELOW:



Regain self-confidence

We will collate the first peer-learning resource of its kind that disabled youth and their families can access either on their own or with the assistance of support workers via an online free platform. The material will contain practical details explaining different options and scenarios. The self-help resource will be distributed in an engaging video format describing the different areas to consider when planning a micro-business.

This proof of concept will be tested with a sample of youth target audience and their families in partnership with service providers we work with.

Based on two decades of experience in this field, we are confident that this pilot will provide tangible evidence that all youth benefit from exposure to these ideas.



A father describes his son's social and professional life transformation from learning how to build a micro-business - (<http://tinyurl.com/enabling-microbusiness>). His son is a successful entrepreneur that has Down syndrome.

Fast Track Inclusion trustees are proud of the work we are doing with the Disability sector. We carry out a variety of applied research projects that demonstrate how people with a disability want to and can contribute to society. This research showed how, when two organisations work together to include people with disabilities in the workplace, this not only happens but also results in significant impact on organisations and people! This short movie was presented at the ASID Conference in Nov 2012. To watch it go to: <http://manukahealth.co.nz/Blog/2012-asid-conference.html>

The proposed resource will extend this knowledge into the self-employment domain. This knowledge can help youth build the necessary confidence to take charge of their careers and make a positive impact on their lives and their families's lives.