

June 2009

## Diversity forum – employing people with disabilities

The Office of Equal Employment Opportunity (OEEEO) hosted their second Diversity Forum for 2009 on Thursday 18 June at the Atrium Theatre. Michael Palermo, Acting Director of Equal Opportunity in Public Employment facilitated proceedings.

The forum was attended by 75 people from a diverse group of public sector agencies.

Some of the experiences agencies have had when employing people with disabilities were highlighted, as well as the support which is available to all public sector organisations when recruiting people with disabilities.

The forum took a new direction and opened with the launch of the Supported Work Team (SWT) DVD, which was followed by a panel discussion with people featured in the DVD. The SWT documentary showcased the benefits of employing people with disabilities in a structured team environment.

The audience then had the opportunity to interact with the panel who answered questions on their experiences with a SWT. The panel comprised of representatives from the University of Western Australia, the Public Sector Commission and South Metropolitan Personnel. Please read the full article on the SWT DVD in this edition.

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The second part of the forum featured presentations from Disability Works Australia, EDGE Employment Solutions and the City of Wanneroo and focused on the benefits of using a disability employment network (DEN) provider and some of the experiences shared from using those different providers.

Thank you to all the participants who dedicated their time and to the OEEEO team for arranging a successful forum.

A full summary of the forum and the SWT DVD are available on the OEEEO website [www.oeeo.wa.gov.au](http://www.oeeo.wa.gov.au).

The next Diversity Forum will be held in September 2009.



From left: Maree Jones (Disability Works Australia), Will Beresford (Edge Employment Solutions), Kathy Christoffelsz (City of Wanneroo) with Michael Palermo.



From left: Beverley Cahill (South Metropolitan Personnel), Lara Stock (Supported Work Team member) and Ray Ryken-Rapp (University of Western Australia).

