

Success Story

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Good News Story – SLAISBURY OFFICE

At my first meeting with Shiv, I met a courteous, well presented, lovely young man; who seemed to be struggling to come to grips with his surroundings. As it turns out Shiv had previously been educated as a surgeon, and completed his internship years prior to sustaining an acquired brain injury, which subsequently prevents him from forming new memories.

Working with Shiv, over time has been a team effort from various staff members in the Northern ESA and a journey for all involved. Initially in attending our service Shiv was accompanied by his rehabilitation team from BIRCH (Brain Injury Rehabilitation Community & Home) and appointments became about ensuring Shiv had a smooth transition between services and programs. As time progressed, I became more and more used to the sorts of management techniques that Shiv needed to begin to work effectively from session to session; and pretty soon, we identified a direction to work towards.

Not too far into the program Shiv was able complete an intensive one-on-one go at Interview Skills and mock interviews. This was done in conjunction with John Panayiotou (now a Modbury EC), where we conducted sessions for an hour and a half each time over a 6 week period. During this time, we made use of video recordings, written notes and anything else we could think of that would aid Shiv as a memory retention tool. The success of this came about after Shiv had a successful interview with the University of South Australia (where he has subsequently worked as an archivist and library assistant) and was able to say to me that he “remembered” bits of what we had endeavored to teach him in Interview skills.

Since being on the Interwork program, Shiv has completed two successful contact placements with the University of South Australia; and more recently has taken place in the Coles Work Experience pilot program that is taking place in the Northern ESA; which with the help of BDO Mike Brown we are VERY confident will lead to another successful ongoing placement for Shiv.

