

Want motivated, loyal, eager staff? Read on

The Northland Chamber of Commerce has often bemoaned the lack of suitable staff available to business in the past few years.

As the economy has boomed the availability of staff has decreased. So we were thrilled to be involved in an event that was part of the Our Stories exhibition at Reyburn House Gallery recently, at which employers testified to the sterling qualities of people with disabilities who were part of their workforces.

The overwhelming message we heard was that these people are hard-working, ambitious, loyal and quite often outshine some of the more able-bodied people.

Kyle Donavon, from Donavons, talked of employees who were hard-working, flexible and willing to carry out the most basic of tasks with a sense of value and importance which reflected the employee's personal pride in work.

Sick leave was a rarity and punctuality couldn't be faulted.

We feel that as the economy starts to tighten and more and more compliance around employing people is pushed on to employers, that there is an even more compelling reason to call Karen at IDEA or Johnny at the Tiaho Trust to enquire about hiring people who live with disabilities.

You will find that these employees are also very flexible and often relish the opportunity to work, say part-time, or carrying out some of the duties that others may not find so appealing.

There is also a lot of assistance to help you as an employer make the decision to hire disabled people, including financial assistance.

On another note, the Westpac Northland Business Excellence awards are well under way.

Check out the website at

BUSINESS PULSE



with Chamber of Commerce CEO Jeff Smith

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www.northlandbusinessawards.co.nz and send through your recommendations of businesses that you think may be an excellent business and well-deserving of an entry in this year's awards.

■ The Northland Chamber of Commerce is the networking, education, advocacy and marketing group for Northland business, and is part of a nationwide network of 30 and a world-wide movement of 21,000 chambers.

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