



## HDNWA's 300th Placement

We are thrilled to celebrate our 300th placement milestone since HDNWA started in 2019 by sharing the inspiring story of Hector, who has secured employment with one of our newest members, Refresh Juice!

Liam, the owner of a small business, Refresh Juice, had always aspired to create a more inclusive workforce. However, navigating the complexities of disability employment and finding the right candidate felt overwhelming. The thought of coordinating with multiple service providers added another layer of stress to his already busy schedule.



That's where HDNWA stepped in.

HDNWA began by taking the time to understand Liam's business, its culture, and the unique needs of his team. Through a tailored approach, they identified what Liam was looking for in an employee and how they could support him in achieving his inclusion goals. Acting as a mediator between Liam and Disability Employment Providers, HDNWA simplified the entire recruitment process, ensuring that Liam could focus on running his business without the added pressure of managing multiple stakeholders.

Hector, one of the candidates we screened, is a dedicated family man living with vision impairment and gradually losing his sight. After being unemployed for some time due to health challenges, Hector was determined to work again. With support from his provider and thoughtful adjustments by Liam, Hector joined the Refresh Juice team, where he has been thriving ever since. Liam shared, "[Having Hector on the team has been fantastic. The camaraderie is high, and I truly hope Hector stays with us for a long time. He's now part of the Refresh family.](#)" For Hector, this job has been life-changing. He's now able to support his family during the holiday season and is grateful to be part of an inclusive workplace that values his strengths and potential.

Hector's placement marks the 145th successful placement under the ILC BEC Grant (Information Linkages and Capacity Building: Building Employer Confidence) and represents a significant milestone for HDNWA. This achievement has brought our total placements to an impressive 300 since the pilot program's inception in 2019. The current funding has also allowed us to further expand our network of inclusive businesses—those that want to be more inclusive but struggle to navigate the complexities of disability employment—by providing tailored support and guidance to overcome these challenges.

This accomplishment underscores the success of our industry-led model, which allows us to understand what businesses need from their employees to ensure a great fit, resulting in higher retention rates and successful placements. It also highlights the unwavering commitment of our team to creating meaningful employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. It stands as a powerful testament to the impact of our collaborative efforts and the transformative potential of our programs.

