



## **State Finalist Young Australian of the Year 2016**

I feel very proud and honoured to be a finalist in the NSW Young Australian of the Year awards.

It is a wonderful opportunity for a wider audience to hear my plea for greater awareness around employment opportunities for people with disability, in particular intellectual disability in the workplace.

As I travel nationally and internationally with my motivational speaking I hear all the time from people with disability that what would make a significant difference to their lives would be supported employment.

I have partnered with Job Support an employment agency to help assist both the employer and employee through their services. The person with disability is trained for the job and they have continued ongoing support.

My work also involves speaking to the corporate sector to start conversations around employment opportunities in their work places.

I speak from experience, when I was born 24 years ago, the delivering doctor said to my parents “I think your baby has Down syndrome. You have three choices; you can institutionalise him, adopt him out or take him home”. How is it that someone can categorise a life like that?

My work centres on inclusiveness. As a NSW Living Life My Way Ambassador for the past three years I have been sharing my life story working to break down barriers for people with disability. I am proof that being involved in my community and living a life full of opportunities like working at the coolest radio station in Sydney, Nova 969 and Smooth FM along with working at Taste Creative a mega creative agency means I get to live an ordinary life like other young Australian’s my age.

**If you are in a position to start a conversation around employing someone please contact me via my website [www.nathanbasha.com](http://www.nathanbasha.com)**

**Email: [nathanbasaha@gmail.com](mailto:nathanbasaha@gmail.com)**



## **Nathan Basha**

Disability advocate

A social entrepreneur pushing boundaries, Nathan Basha is living proof that disability does not equal disabled. Nathan might happen to have Down syndrome but, as he says, “that’s not who I am”. As a motivational speaker, Nathan has presented at national and international conferences and political forums, universities and schools to share his insights into the possibilities when people are encouraged to reach their potential. A filmmaker, university student, actor and employee at Sydney’s NOVA radio station and Taste Creative, Nathan is also an ambassador for the Living Life My Way campaign. Through his social enterprise, NB\* No Barriers, Nathan is focused on engaging with the corporate sector to change attitudes around employment for people with disability. He’s hosted workshops to inspire people with intellectual disability to find their dream job, teaching employment skills and the secrets to writing a super CV. Just 10 per cent of people with intellectual disability are employed in Australia’s open labour market and Nathan is determined to smash this statistic while helping

<http://www.australianoftheyear.org.au/>

<http://www.australianoftheyear.org.au/honour-roll/?view=fullView&recipientID=1404>