

PRESS RELEASE, FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015

## WIN-WIN FOR INJURED WORKER AND LOCAL BUSINESS

**In 2013 Mr Wachs of Bargo NSW sustained a workplace injury that would prevent him from sitting or standing for long periods of time. He, like 79,000 other Australians in the same year, could no longer continue in the same job (ABS 2014). With the support of IOH Injury & Occupational Health and Camden Valley & Highlands Locksmiths, Mr Wachs looks to have a bright future in 2016.**

“Every injured worker is entitled to nominate a SafeWork NSW Accredited Workplace Rehabilitation Provider. Their role is to make the rehabilitation and return to work process as pain free as possible for the injured person,” said Paula Cormack – Practice Manager at IOH Injury & Occupational Health.

For rehabilitation providers to be most effective, local employers can accommodate two incentive programs for eligible injured workers. A ‘Work Trial’ allows both an injured worker and a potential employer to test the water over a period of weeks, without any obligation to ongoing employment by either party. The ‘JobCover Placement Program’ is signed up as part of an official offer of employment, which includes up to \$27,400 in wage reimbursements over 12 months, plus other incentives related to Workers Compensation Premiums.

During October 2015, Mr Wachs completed a Work Trial with Camden Valley & Highlands Locksmiths as a factory hand and assistant installer. IOH ensured the duties of the job match Mr Wachs’ skills and his physical capacity. Local Business Owner, Justin O’Connell said, “I’m actually a bit surprised it has worked out so well. Alex and I both live in the Southern Highlands and commute to work at Smeaton Grange. Alex has quickly picked up some new skills and we’ve had great feedback from our customers.” Mr O’Connell has now commenced paid employment via the JobCover Placement Program with Mr Wachs.

Injured workers or local employers wanting more information about return to work services can contact IOH Injury & Occupational Health: (02) 4620 7244

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### References:

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2014, *Work-Related Injuries, Australia, JUL 2013 TO JUN 2014*, cat. no. 6324.0, ABS, Canberra

### Media Enquiries:

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