

to contact Brisbane City Council.

Cr Matthew Bourke points to possible drill holes in the fig tree.

Deaf-initely nothing in his way

WITH the loud noises going on in his workplace, some may argue it is actually an advantage that welder Michael Madden cannot hear.

Born deaf, Mr Madden is showing his workmates that being unable to hear is not a safety or communication issue as he goes about his day-to-day work of welding and cutting.

"Any people who are deaf can work the same as someone who can hear," he said through an interpreter.

Mr Madden has worked at Steel-Line in Darra for four years and has a Certificate Three in welding - but not everyone in the past has been as accepting of his disability as his current employer.

Mr Madden was helped into his position with Job

Placement Limited - a free service which helps people with disabilities into the workforce after he expressed a wish to get a job in welding.

Job Placement consultant and workplace interpreter, Gregg McDonald, said when Mr Madden first started work at Steel-Line, he went along as well to help with communication.

But now Mr McDonald only visits occasionally when special events such as training days are on, with Mr Madden communicating to his boss and workmates each day through some sign language, writing notes and simple hand directions.

"Communication is more about an attitude," Mr McDonald said.

"Many hearing people

aren't good communicators."

Mr Madden's boss, Brian O'Neill, said Mr Madden was a good employee and there was nothing he couldn't do.

"No one gave him a fair go, but all we had to do was make some simple changes to suit him," he said.

"There's not a job he can't do in there, you only have to point to it once and he will do it."

Mr Madden said he was as equally fond of his boss.

He also gave a positive message to others who may be deaf like him.

"Just keep trying and pursuing and don't give up," he said.

■ For more information about Job Placement Limited call 1800 804 236.



Being deaf hasn't stopped Michael Madden pursuing a career in welding.

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