Inclusive Workplace Provider Awards Breakfast
Bairnsdale

Mark Heaysman, Senior Advisor in the Social Innovation and Leadership Team for the Federal Government, spoke about innovative inclusive practices which have occurred locally and abroad at an Awards Breakfast which aimed to recognise employers that have contributed to social inclusion for people with a disability through the provision of work experience.

The Inclusive Workplace Provider Awards Breakfast, which was sponsored by Gippsland East LLEN and the National Disability Coordination Officer project, took place at the Oaktree Training Restaurant at GippsTAFE in Bairnsdale on Tuesday 30th November in time to celebrate International Day of People with Disability on Friday 3rd December 2010.

“International Day of People with Disability is a really important day – it’s a day to raise awareness of disability, and to acknowledge that people with disability play a vital part in the community,” said Jacqui Bramwell, Executive Officer of Gippsland East LLEN.

Twenty-two local organisations were recognised at the event for the work experience opportunities they provided to local people with a disability. These included:

- Target - Bairnsdale
- RSL- Bairnsdale
- East Gippsland Auto Recyclers
- McDonalds - Bairnsdale
- Coles- Bairnsdale
- Easy Eats Cafe
- Happy Cats
- George Gray Centre
- Lakes Entrance Neighbourhood House
- APCO / IGA Express
- Kmart - Bairnsdale
- Bunnings – Bairnsdale
- 13 CABS
- East Gippsland Shire
Each of these nominated businesses have provided a student with a disability in the local area the opportunity to experience the world of work and develop their practical industry skills as well as their generic work skills which has positively impacted that student’s pathway to work.

With one in five Australians experiencing some degree of disability, it is vital that barriers to employment be reduced.

“Work experience is often a pathway to employment for students so it is hoped these businesses will spread the word about how easy and rewarding it is to have students with disabilities as work placement students,” said Kim Radford, National Disability Coordination Officer.

International Day of People with Disability was established in 1992 by the United Nations General Assembly to promote awareness of the contributions and experiences of people with disability. It is celebrated worldwide on 3 December each year.