In this edition of the Disability Education and Employment News, we have information on the Vision Australia Further Education Bursary 2011, the Central Coast Children and Young Peoples Mental Health School – Link Conference, the Facilitation Skills: An Introduction to Person Centred Group Facilitation workshop series and the upcoming DEAN Professional Development Day – “Mental Health: The elephant in the room for all disability workers.” Plus further information on other Resources, Conferences and Workshops, News articles and other information for the Disability Education, Training and Employment Sectors.

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**Education News:**

**Rocketing autism numbers met with education shortfall – Sydney Morning Herald**

26/07/2010

Heath Gilmore

AUTISTIC children are being forced into mainstream classes because of a lack of places in specialised learning groups in NSW schools, an inquiry has heard.

The families and teachers of autistic children have complained to the NSW parliamentary inquiry about the failure to provide an adequate number of places, despite a sharp increase in students diagnosed with learning problems.

The inquiry heard that one in 10 students in NSW public schools are disabled or have special learning needs. More than 7000 students were classified as autistic last year, a 165 per cent increase since 2003.

These students are educated either in specialist schools, support classes in regular schools or mainstream classes with
specialist support.

A mildly autistic child, Lachlan Deitz, has been part of a support class at Sherwood Ridge Public School in Sydney's north-west for most of his education.

For the rest of the article go to

Employment News:
Coalition on education – Sydney Morning Herald
31/08/2010
Kirsty Needham

Parents would be helped to make the choice to send disabled children to private schools under a Coalition plan for a $20,000 education card that follows each student, bypassing state education departments.

The opposition education spokesman, Christopher Pyne, said the education card "ends the discrimination that has been in place" for families who choose private schools.

A spokesman for the Association of Independent Schools of NSW said the association believed the Coalition policy would "address many funding issues for disabled students in independent schools".

In NSW a private school with a blind student receives about $15,000 in government subsidy, while a state school receives up to $80,000 because the student is fully funded, the spokesman said.

For the rest of the article go to

Abbott vies for disability vote – Sydney Morning Herald
31/08/2010
Carol Nader

Opposition Leader Tony Abbott has sought to trump Labor on the issue of disabilities, pledging $314 million to help students with a disability and their families.

Previously politically overlooked, disability has now earned prominence as an election issue, with Mr Abbott's announcement coming a day after Prime Minister Julia Gillard's announcement of $182 million of measures, including giving families of young children with particular disabilities $12,000 to help pay for early intervention treatment.

The Coalition will create a so-called education card worth up to $20,000 a year, indexed to inflation, to provide students with disabilities funding that they can take to any school. This will start in 2012.

Currently, schools are funded directly to provide support for students with disabilities. Mr Abbott described it as a "breakthrough" initiative because it meant that for the first time the money would "follow" students if they left a school.

"The money will follow the student rather than just being given to the institutions," he said.

For the rest of the article go to

Welfare News:
Gillard promises $182m in disabilities funding – Australian
30/07/2010
Stephen Lunn

Julia Gillard says sticking with the status quo on support for disabled Australians is not an option.

But she says moving to a no-fault national disability insurance scheme would be a "very, very major shift".

The Prime Minister yesterday announced $182 million in extra funding for people with disabilities, including $12,000 a year rebates to assist with early intervention programs for young children with disabilities.
Up to 8000 children under the age of seven who have a range of problems, including sight and hearing impairments, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome or Fragile X syndrome, would benefit from the rebate in the first year. And for slightly older kids, a lesser Medicare rebate would be offered.


Don't shelve disability scheme – Australian
30/07/2010
Editorial
LABOR must go much further than it did yesterday in announcing a National Disability Strategy and dollars for early intervention therapy and supported accommodation. Extra help is welcome but significant change for the disabled will come with a universal insurance scheme that provides support appropriate in a modern society. Julia Gillard yesterday noted her government's tasking of the Productivity Commission to investigate the feasibility of such a scheme. But the commission will report only next July, and as the Prime Minister hinted yesterday, a scheme would be revolutionary. It would require real political courage to implement. Even so, getting to this point is an achievement, considering the layers of departments, agencies, funding and the competing demands in this sector. Labor's Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities, Bill Shorten, has done well to make the disabled a political issue but he has learned change is hard. Bill Moss, a disabled businessman recently criticised Mr Shorten's decision to encourage the housing industry to adopt disability-friendly design standards by 2020. Why not legislation and why not sooner, he asked. Frustration among the disabled and their carers is not surprising -- they have been waiting a long time for a comprehensive approach to policy.

Disabled children to get $12,000 under Labor – Sydney Morning Herald
30/07/2010
Carol Nader
PARENTS of young children with disabilities will be given $12,000 to help them pay for physiotherapists, speech pathologists and other early intervention treatment if the Labor government is re-elected.

About 7880 children are expected to benefit, although the scheme applies only to children aged six and under, and only to particular disabilities including vision and hearing impairments, cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome and Fragile X syndrome. Many other children are excluded.

The announcement came as former NSW health minister John Della Bosca last night said he would quit Parliament to lead the campaign to increase pressure on the government for a National Disability Insurance Scheme.


Disabled offered $3M leadership training – Sydney Morning Herald
24/07/2010
AAP
Disabled people will be offered training to become community leaders under a $3 million program if the Labor government is re-elected.

Parliamentary secretary for disabilities, Bill Shorten, announced the proposed funding changes at a Down Syndrome Victoria luncheon in Melbourne on Saturday.

The leadership program would offer 12-month training programs for disabled people and match them with a personal mentor.

"One of the problems which I see in the disability debate is that people with disability are all too invisible," Mr Shorten told the luncheon crowd.

"So we'll be spending millions of dollars ... to train 200 leaders, people who have disability, to be the spokespeople for people with disability."

Mr Shorten also said Labor would provide $100,000 grants to be matched by local councils for projects to make public spaces like playgrounds and swimming pools more accessible for disabled people.

He said the ABC would also launch a new website called "Attitudes" for disabled people and their supporters.

The $500,000 project would be developed and edited by disabled people.

Mr Shorten said the website could become a voice for parents of people with a disability, allowing them to speak out and
connect with others.
The scheme is modelled on a similar program called "Ouch" on the BBC's website in Britain.
For the rest of the article go to

International News:
Vodcasting: Education Of The Future
By Katie Janssen
Published: July 26, 2010, 10:07 PM
SIOUTH FALLS, SD - You probably remember going to school with the teacher at the front of the room and the students sitting quietly in neat rows. But education has changed; now students work in groups and participate actively in class. Even homework is different. Vodcasting is changing the role of the teacher in the classroom.
They're at the head of the room, but we caught up with three teachers who aren't exactly doing their regular instruction. For one thing, it's summer so the classroom is empty. But also, they're talking to a camera, and recording that lesson for the internet.
"It's really a three part process," Barb Newitt, an Advanced Placement (AP) physics teacher at Roosevelt High School, said. "We set up a lesson ahead of time, record it, then edit to make the video."
Newitt's husband, Brad, is also an AP physics teacher in Sioux Falls at Lincoln High School, and Jeff Berndt is the AP physics teacher at Washington. The three have been working together to vodcast their lessons over the summer.
In AP physics, teachers cover two college courses over a single semester, so it's easy for students to become overwhelmed.
For the rest of the article go to
http://www.keloland.com/News/NewsDetail6373.cfm?Id=102789

Bookshare Partners With Iowa For Accessible Texts
By Christina Samuels on July 26, 2010 10:50 AM
When most students return to school in a few months, they'll be able to start on their assignments immediately with the textbooks that their teachers have assigned. But for students with visual impairments or other print disabilities, the wait to get classroom materials they can actually use can be quite long.
In one state, Iowa, a partnership with an organization that makes books accessible to people with print disabilities is helping to change that lag. Bookshare, a project of Palo Alto, Calif.-based Benetech Inc., received a $32 million, five-year grant from the federal Office of Special Education Programs in 2007 that allows it to offer free memberships to school districts and qualified students. Students can hold individual memberships as well as receive materials through their school district.
For the rest of the article go to

Conferences and Workshops:
Vision Australia Texpo and Open Day
Each year, Vision Australia holds Texpo, an event to showcase the latest technology and services for people who are blind or have low vision.
In 2010, the event be held across three major centres - Vision Australia's Kooyong (Melbourne), Brisbane and Enfield (Sydney) centres.
The event will feature displays from a diverse range of technology suppliers, service providers and the host of Vision Australia services with specialist staff who will be on hand to answer your questions.
More detailed information will be available in the lead up to Texpo, but dates are now available for your calendar.
Texpo 2010 displays will "hop" from the following venues over an eight day period:
Melbourne (Kooyong): Friday 27 August and Saturday 28 August 2010
Brisbane (Coorparoo): Tuesday 31 August and Wednesday 1 September 2010
Sydney (Enfield): Friday 3 September and Saturday 4 September 2010

NDS Employment Forum 2010
6 & 7 September 2010
Hilton on the Park, Melbourne
Australian Disability Enterprises are also facing the prospect of change. The Government is developing a new vision for Australian Disability Enterprises. Economic pressures and opportunities are directing providers to explore broader markets and establish cooperative business arrangements. Improving business performance while achieving better outcomes for supported employees will become both a priority and a balancing act.
This NDS 2-day conference will equip delegates with knowledge and strategies to ensure they can continue to focus on the employment of people with disability as they meet the challenges ahead.
Online Registration https://www.ors.net.au/NDS_EmploymentForum_10.html
General Enquiries Sarah Maguire Events Coordinator Ph 02 6283 3200 sarah.maguire@nds.org.au
Sponsorship Enquiries Julie Walton Conference Manager Ph 02 9256 3115 julie.walton@nds.org.au

Annual Student Equity in Higher Education Conference
The Melbourne Cricket Ground
11 and 12 October, 2010
For further details and updates:
www.ncsehe2010.com.au

Working in the West Conference 2010
21st - 22nd October 2010
ASCOT RACECOURSE, 70 GRANDSTAND RD ASCOT
Working in the West Conference 2010 aims to provide all delegates a strategies and practical support toolbox full of ideas to take away and
use in our ever changing environment.
The Conference will motivate, inspire and will offer delegates a wide range of training and information on marketing and selling, VET,
mental heath and other specific disabilities along with other agencies offering information about their services and how they can to assist you
and lots more!
The DES and ADE awards will be presented at the Sundowner.
Nominations for DES and ADE Employee of the Year awards will open soon.
Regional Travel & Accommodation subsidies will again be available upon application.
Watch this Space!
http://www.acewa.org.au/

Pathways 10 2010 Conference
Tuesday 30 November - Friday
3 December
Southbank Institute of Technology.
Creating space for people with disabilities in tertiary education
for more information go to– www.pathways10.org
NSW Events:

DEAN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Mental Health: The elephant in the room for all disability workers

Wednesday 18th August 2010
UTS City Campus, Jones Street
Building CB10, Room 02.460

Our Guest Presenters
Bradley Whitwell: Senior Research Fellow, The Brain and Mind Research Institute, University of Sydney, and National Youth Program Co-ordinator, Headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation
Jeanne Gehue: Director of Education and Youth Services, Brain and Mind Research Institute

REGISTRATION

Registration costs $50 for Members of DEAN or $70 for Non-Members. All payments for PD Days must be made in advance using PayPal or on the day by cash or cheque. DEAN is a volunteer organisation without administrative support - we cannot generate invoices. Payment must be made prior to participation in the PD Day.

Register online at www.deaninc.org.au Registrations will close at 5pm, Friday 13th August, or earlier if maximum numbers are reached. Places are limited so please register early to avoid disappointment.

Alternatively you may print the registration form from http://deaninc.org.au/content/view/12/65/ and return it to Reshad Heckbarally at Reshad.Heckbarally@anu.edu.au.

If you require alternative formats or sign language interpreters, please register as soon as possible, but by 4th August at the latest in order for these services to be put in place.

If you have any questions or require further information please do not hesitate to contact Nicole Ison (DEAN Secretary) on 0414 210 901 or n.ison@uws.edu.au.

Aboriginal Yarn Up

Help create awareness of and accessibility to Disability Services
Friday 3rd September 2010
8.30am - 3.00pm
Heininger Hall, Dapto Ribbonwood Centre
For more information, please ring: Peter Burke, 4257 9036 by 13th August 2010
Barbeque and salad lunch provided
A project of the Illawarra Aboriginal Pathways Group

Facilitation Skills: An Introduction to Person Centred Group Facilitation

Centre For Disability Studies
Facilitation skills
An Introduction to Person Centred Group Facilitation

OVERVIEW

The course of eight two hour sessions will provide participants with an understanding of the theory and skills of facilitation and enable them to achieve competence as a facilitator. It will be delivered by Dr Patricia O’Brien and Raymond Murray of the Centre for Disability Studies.

The delivery of the course will model the skills presented as well as providing a comprehensive review of the theory of facilitation.

content

- The nature of facilitation
- The role of the facilitator
Skills and tools for facilitation
Achieving clarity of purpose
Balancing content and processes
Establishing and maintaining participation and cooperation

The course will be relevant for community workers, service agency staff, social workers, health professionals as well as teachers and leaders of community organisations.
Due to the interactive nature of the course it will be limited to twenty participants.

Course details Wed 1 September to Wed 20 October 2010 4.30pm-6.30pm 8 sessions
Cost: $300
Location: Lecture Room 3, Centre for Continuing Education
160 Missenden Road
Newtown NS W 2042

how to enrol
- Visit http://www.cce.usyd.edu.au/ then select Business and Management | Community Services
- Call 02 9036 4789 Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm for more information

This course is offered by the Centre for Continuing Education on behalf of the Centre for Disability Studies, Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney.

Children and Young Peoples Mental Health School – Link Conference
The 2010 NSW DET, Catholic Schools Office, Broken Bay Diocese & NSCCAHS Children and Young Peoples Mental Health School – Link Conference will be held at Kariong Mountains High School on Thursday 16th December 2010.

The Conference will have specialist keynote speakers addressing emerging trends and workshops showcasing successful evidence based mental health programs for schools.

The theme of the conference will be:
Caring, Connecting and Collaborating

The workshops focus on supporting students with complex mental health and related issues. The conference is targeted towards staff involved in supporting students with high support needs.

The content will also be of interest to service providers who work with schools or provide services to children, young people and their families who experience mental health issues.

The Conference dates and venue is:
Thursday 16th December 2010
Kariong Mountains High School

NSW DET Staff contact:
Daniel Hayes, Principal - North Gosford Learning Centre: mob.0409 839 092 phone 02 43232800

NSW Health Staff contact:
Debbie Pilkington - School Link Coordinator, Northern Sydney Central Coast Health phone: 02 4304 7878

Catholic Schools Office Diocese Broken Bay Contact: Elizabeth Douglas – Primary School Counsellor (Central Coast) mobile. 0418 403 668

Scholarships:
Vision Australia Further Education Bursary 2011
The Vision Australia Further Education Bursary 2011 for tertiary students with a vision impairment is now open for
applications. The closing date is 29 October 2010. Please consider passing this information onto current and future domestic students who may not be aware of what a great opportunity it is for them to receive adaptive technology.

Visit [www.visionaustralia.org/bursary](http://www.visionaustralia.org/bursary) for the application form and more information.

**Vision Australia’s Further Education Bursaries**

Each year Vision Australia awards financial bursaries to tertiary students who are blind or have low vision for the purchase of adaptive technology such as CCTVs, laptops, screen reading and magnification software.

Vision Australia’s Further Education Bursaries aims to assist clients who would not otherwise be able to afford adaptive technology, thus increasing their ability to participate in further education.

Since 1996, 191 bursaries have been awarded by Vision Australia to students studying a broad range of disciplines – from Arts and Music to IT and Business.

**Who is eligible?**

To be eligible, applicants need to:

- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Victoria, New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, the Northern Territory or Tasmania.
- Be (or become) a client of Vision Australia
- Demonstrate the need for financial assistance to purchase adaptive technology
- Be applying for, or enrolled in, a tertiary course graded Certificate IV or above
- Be available to attend a presentation ceremony in May.

**How to apply?**

To apply for a bursary, applicants need to:

- Complete an application form – download available from August at [www.visionaustralia.org/bursary](http://www.visionaustralia.org/bursary)
- Have an adaptive technology assessment specifically for the Bursary with a Vision Australia consultant
- Provide some documentary evidence (outlined on the application form).

(Applications are treated in the strictest confidence.)

**Important dates**

Applications open in August and close at the end of October. Recipients are selected in December, equipment is purchased and delivered after proof of enrolment has been provided (around March) and the Bursaries are presented at ceremonies in May.

For more information contact:

Max Bini
Tertiary Education Consultant
Max.Bini@visionaustralia.org

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**Publication:**

**Accommodating College Students with Learning Disabilities: ADD, ADHD, and Dyslexia**

By Melana Zyla Vickers

March 25, 2010

A complete copy of “Accommodating College Students with Learning Disabilities: ADD, ADHD, and Dyslexia,” is available for download as an Adobe Acrobat file compatible with Adobe Reader.

Universities are providing extra time on tests, quiet exam rooms, in-class note-takers, and other assistance to college students with modest learning disabilities. But these policies are shrouded in secrecy. This paper, “Accommodating College Students with Learning Disabilities: ADD, ADHD, and Dyslexia,” by Melana Zyla Vickers, examines the nature of this assistance and discusses the policy questions it raises.

This research report is based on interviews with on-campus experts in learning disabilities, professors who deal with learning-disabled students, and students themselves. It incorporates statistics showing the rise in accommodations for college students’ mild learning disabilities. The paper is not about severe disabilities such as autism, brain injuries, or visual or hearing impairment.

The rise in accommodation by universities has been fueled by changing diagnoses of learning disabilities and by federal laws. Federal requirements are not, however, as demanding as are laws that apply to K-12 students. Those
requirements could change, however, depending on the outcome of a court case currently under consideration.
The author, Melana Zyla Vickers, is a widely published journalist who writes editorials on education and public policy for USA Today. She also is a regular contributor to the Weekly Standard and National Review Online and has appeared on the PBS show NewsHour, CNN, Fox, and other news channels. Her previous report for the Pope Center was “An Empty Room of One’s Own.”

Hard copies are available from the Pope Center at no charge. To request a copy be mailed to you, send an email to: info@popecenter.org.

Download PDF file: Accommodating College Students with Learning Disabilities: ADD, ADHD, and Dyslexia (305 k)