Correction: in the previous edition the ‘Get ready for employment now’ was advertise for 3 October, it should have stated 3 August. I apologise for any convenience.

In this Disability Education and Employment News, we have information on the NDS Employment Forum, two Sydney School Leaver Expos and Hearing Awareness Week 22-28 August 2010.

Plus further information on other Resources, Conferences and Workshops, News articles and other information for the Disability Education, Training and Employment Sectors.

Please distribute the Newsletter to those that you think would be interested in it.

For information on subscribing, please go to the end of the newsletter.

Education News
Employment News
Welfare News
International News
Conferences and Workshops
NSW Events
Vic Events
NSW Items
Calls for Expressions of Interest and Input
Scholarships
Studies and Research
Publication
New Resources
Media Releases
To Subscribe
**Abbott's education refund plan strikes a chord – Age**

22/07/2010

Jewel Topsfield

JANET Coard will hold off on buying her son a musical instrument until August 21.

"He needs a new trumpet next year, so I'll hold off for the election," laughs Ms Coard.

If Tony Abbott is elected prime minister, Ms Coard will be able to claim up to $2000 a year on her two sons' musical instruments, sports equipment, excursions - and even their Caulfield Grammar school fees.

Ms Coard welcomed the Coalition's extension of the education tax refund, saying it took into account what parents actually spent on education. "I think people need to acknowledge our education system needs the private system and this is a way of acknowledging it."

For the rest of the article go to


**Outrage over pupil special needs remarks – Daily Telegraph**

21/07/2010

SHE made her name in PR - but Prue MacSween started a row by suggesting high needs pupils should be separated from mainstream classmates.

Families with disabled or special needs children, furious about her remarks on Seven's Weekend Sunrise show, have demanded apologies from Ms MacSween and Seven.

A Facebook campaign which was launched by Livian Jones, mother of a six-year-old autistic boy, from Pendle Hill in Sydney's west, already has more than 2400 signatures.

Ms MacSween, who spent two years in a wheelchair as a child, yesterday apologised but stood by her comments which related to an overburdened teacher with 31 special needs pupils in her class.

For the rest of the article go to


**Teachers overwhelmed by special needs – Sydney Morning Herald**

21/07/2010

Heath Gilmore

One in 10 students in NSW public schools are disabled or have special learning needs and teachers are struggling to educate them, to the detriment of other pupils, an inquiry has heard.

Up to 15,000 students with disabilities and 50,000 students with learning needs such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder and language disorders are being taught mainly in mainstream classes across the state.

Over the past 20 years, government policy has emphasised greater integration of these students within the school system. But teachers gave evidence to a NSW upper house inquiry that they were failing to meet the educational needs of all their pupils because of the unmet demands of integrated students, and they received little support.

The parliamentary inquiry chairwoman, Robyn Parker, said that improved infant survival rates and more sensitive diagnostic tools had led to the increase in the number of students identified as having a disability or special needs.

For the rest of the article go to


**Computer system gives ears to those who cannot hear**

RACHEL BROWNE

July 19, 2010

"It has made us learn more" ... says Rabia Muhammad, right, who with Lisa White, is trialling the new voice to text recognition system with teacher Sally Pape at Robert Townson High School. Photo: Lee Besford

A system that allows deaf students to fully take part in mainstream education is being trialled in a Sydney school. About 10,000 Australian children with hearing loss stand to benefit.

Under the system, the teacher wears a lapel microphone that transmits the audio to a captioner who uses a voice-to-text program to send the words to the student's laptop in under seven seconds.

Deaf students and disability experts say it could revolutionise how those with hearing loss are taught in secondary and
tertiary education. The system Access Innovation Live, was developed over three years by the Sydney company Access Innovation Media.
For the rest of the article go to http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/computer-system-gives-ears-to-those-who-cannot-hear-20100718-10g3p.html

**Employment News:**

**Mental health daze – Sydney Morning Herald**
16/07/2010

Does your employer organise free or discounted staff gym memberships? Maybe it encourages healthy nutrition in the canteen, or workers exercising at lunchtime.
Promoting physical health is smart business – healthy staff are more productive.
But physical fitness is only part of the equation. What about mental fitness? Should companies do more to help staff improve their mental well-being?
Yes, I know many big companies offer counselling for employees who suffer depression or other mental health illnesses.
I'm talking about companies introducing mental well-being programs that all employees attend. And training managers to help staff deal with stress and other problems that contribute to mental illness.
The Economist recently reported that more overseas companies are introducing mental well-being programs.
It makes sense: a sixth of the British workforce suffers from depression or stress, and mental health illnesses cost British employers US$26 billion a year.
For the rest of the article go to http://www.smh.com.au/small-business/blogs/the-venture/mental-health-daze/20100715-10cn5.html

**Welfare News:**

**Mentally ill unhappy with Centrelink: survey – ABC News Online**
20/07/2010

Andree Withey

A new survey of people living with mental illness has found many are unhappy with the services offered by Centrelink.
Sane Australia surveyed more than 500 people living with mental illness and found 75 per cent were Centrelink clients.
Two in every three said they were dissatisfied with the help the organisation gave them to find work and access assistance payments.
More than half said their education had been cut short because of their illness and that they had not received enough help to resume their studies.
For the rest of the article go to http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/07/20/2958879.htm?section=justin

**International News:**

**Report points up public ignorance of learning disabilities**

Wednesday 14 July 2010 Printable  Email Public misconceptions about people with learning disabilities are rife, according to a report published by social care charity Turning Point.
Nearly one in four people questioned in a survey of more than 1,000 people believed that those with the disability dwelt
in care homes while 8 per cent thought they lived in secure hospitals.
Nearly a third of wrongly believed mental illness was a learning disability and a quarter thought dementia was one.
For the rest of the article go to
http://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/index.php/news/content/view/full/92775

**Conferences and Workshops:**

**Assistive Technology: The tip of the iceberg**
Australian Rehabilitation & Assistive Technology Association National Conference
Tuesday 10 – Friday 13 August 2010, Hobart, TAS
For information about ARATA, and the 2010 conference, visit the website at:

**Managing Social Inclusion in Higher Education Conference**
10 & 11 August 2010
Citigate Central Hotel, Sydney
www.liquidlearning.com.au

**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:
You are invited to “Pathways to Your Future”
SCHOOL LEAVER EXPO 2010
Is your son, daughter or student with a disability in years 9 – 12 and you are planning for post school? Come along with your son or daughter to meet and greet service providers for post school opportunities. Research the appropriate service which may be available after the completion of high school.
Tuesday 3rd August, 2010
Visit anytime between 3pm and 6pm
JJ Cahill High School, Enter Via Sutherland Street, Rosebery.
(parking available in Sutherland Street and school car park)
Wheelchair accessible
This expo is free
Disability Employment Agencies (Open Employment and Supported Employment), Transition to Work (TTW) and Community Participation (CP) service providers, TAFE and Centrelink will be available for you to talk with and make appointments for future meetings.
Service Providers from the eastern suburbs, city, inner west and surrounding areas will be attending this EXPO. It will give parents, carers and teachers the opportunity to learn about possible available options post school.
For Further information contact:
Department of Education, Sydney Region Support Teachers Transition:
Jennifer Dash 9555-4152 or Sue Tomasetti 9300 9579
Catholic Education: Transition Officer: Fran McBride 0408 258 469

North Sydney Employment, Education and Post School Expo for people with disabilities
Dougherty Community Centre, Auditorium/Extension
Wednesday 4th August, 2010
Visit anytime between 3 pm and 5:45 pm
Wheelchair accessible
This expo is free
An Expo for staff and students from government and non-government schools in Years 10-12 can access Providers from:
- TAFE and University
- Apprenticeships/Traineeships
- Employment Services
- ADHC Post-School Programs
- Centrelink, and other transition disability services
Contact thart@med.usyd.edu.au for further information.

Vic Events:
Get ready for employment now
The Inner Melbourne VET Cluster and RMIT invite all tertiary students with disability who would like to get ready for employment to an NDCO facilitated forum.
By attending the forum you will learn about:
- Career planning, practical strategies, and programs and services to assist you with the transition to employment once you leave TAFE or University
- Willing and Able Mentoring Program
- Youth Disability Advocacy Service
- Disability Employment Services
- Employment Support Programs for Tertiary Graduate Students with Disability
You will also have the opportunity to speak with service providers about your individual needs.
Date: Tuesday 3 August, 2010
Time: 2 pm – 4 pm
Venue: City campus, Swanston Library, Building 8, Level 5, Seminar room 1
Register online by Friday 23 July, 2010 at Inner Melbourne VET Cluster registration

Calls for Expressions of Interest and Input:
Hearing Awareness Week 22-28 August 2010.
Free posters and balloons available, contact info@deafnessforum.org.au or go to www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au
The 2010 theme is Access: all ages and each of the 4 different posters focus on a different type of access: communication, education, technology and employment.

A Reminder that the deadline for abstracts for the Pathways 10 2010 Conference
The deadline for abstracts for the Pathways 10 2010 Conference: Creating Space for People with Disabilities in Tertiary Education is next Friday 30 July.
At this stage we are only asking people to submit a 250 word abstract or expression of interest. To register you abstract just go to our website: www.pathways10.org

Back to Top

Media Releases:
Legislative Council
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2
REPORT TABLED
Inquiry into the provision of education to students with a disability or special needs
The Chair of the NSW Parliament’s General Purpose Standing Committee No 2, the Hon Robyn Parker MLC, released a report on the provision of education to students with a disability or special needs. The report identifies significant inadequacies in the NSW education system for students with disabilities and special needs.
Ms Parker commented: “This Inquiry received more than 700 submissions and heard evidence from over 70 witnesses. We are extremely grateful to the parents, teachers, advocacy organisations and academics for their valuable contribution to shaping our report and its recommendations.”
“We have listened to the concerns of parents of children with disabilities and special needs and acknowledge that many parents need to constantly advocate for the right of their child to receive the same educational opportunities as other children. We call on the NSW Government to take immediate action to ensure all students have equal access to the education system” Ms Parker said.
“We heard that one of the major barriers to the effective inclusion of students with disabilities and special needs in the education system is the lack of appropriate funding in both the government and non-government sectors. We have recommended that the NSW Government substantially increase funding for these students in its schools” Ms Parker said.
Ms Parker stated: “The current efforts of principals, teachers and support staff to promote an inclusive learning environment for students with disabilities and special needs is commended by the Committee. However, we recognise that school communities would benefit from additional support and guidance on how to effectively maximise the use of available resources to assist students with disabilities and special needs. Many of our recommendations are designed to improve decision making at this level, particularly in relation to the role of the School Learning Support Team.”
“Scores of teachers told us that they do not receive adequate support to cater for the learning needs of the 15,000 students with disabilities and 50,000 students with special needs enrolled in mainstream classes. Several of our recommendations are therefore designed to increase the resources available to assist teachers in mainstream classes to address the learning requirements of all of their students” Ms Parker commented.
“Our report makes over 30 recommendations that seek to improve the education of students with disabilities or special needs in NSW schools, including, improving the assessment process for individual disability funding, increasing access to professional support, enhancing teacher training and addressing the unmet demand for special education places” said Ms Parker.
Copies of the report can be downloaded from www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc2 or are available from the Committee Secretariat by calling (02) 9230 3509. For further comment please contact the Hon Robyn Parker MLC, Committee Chair, on (02) 9230 3332 or 0427 015 049
The inquiry received over 700 submissions and the report makes 31 key recommendations.
I have attached the media release FYI – the full report is available at http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlment/committee.nsf/0/BD30607CCEED0133CA25776200264698

Return to Top

To Subscribe:
We hope that this edition of Disability Education and Employment News has been of interest.
If you wish to have the Disability Education and Employment News e-mail to you send an e-mail to thart@med.usyd.edu.au with “Subscribe Disability Education and Employment News” in the subject line.
If you wish to unsubscribe send an e-mail to thart@med.usyd.edu.au with “Unsubscribe Disability Education and Employment News” in the subject line.
To Contribute:
If you have any comments, suggestions or articles, resources, scholarships, workshops, conferences, Events or any other information that is Disability Education, Training or Employment related and you wish to promote it send an e-mail to thart@med.usyd.edu.au

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) under the National Disability Coordination Officer Programme.

No 10, Vol 6 - Compiled by Timothy Hart the NDCO for North Sydney and Central Coast

The NDCOs for Region 1 and 3 are Hosted at the Centre for Disability Studies