



Australian Government  
Department of Education, Employment  
and Workplace Relations



CDS

Centre for  
Disability  
Studies

## Disability Education and Employment News: No. 11, Vol 7.

In this Disability Education and Employment News, we have information on the Summer 2011/12 intake of Stepping into..., and registration are now open for the Accessing the Future: Instruct, Inspire, Include, Inclusive Technologies & Learning Disability in Education & Employment Conference.

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:

#### Schools have less funds for disabled – Adelaide Advertiser

13/09/2011

Sheradyn Holderhead

SOUTH Australia has a higher rate of students classified as having a disability than any other state, a report says. In SA, 7 per cent of students - about 10,400 - are classified as having a disability and receive on average \$4800 in targeted funding.

The national average is \$13,200.

The report by the Australian Council for Educational Research also showed public schools in the state received on average the least support for students with disabilities, at \$137,896, compared with the national average of \$375,328.

Schools Minister Peter Garrett said the states' different approaches to students with a disability meant not every student was getting the support they needed. "There is significant work ahead in improving the service and support available for kids with disability, and this is a priority for the current review of school funding," he said.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/schools-have-less-funds-for-disabled/story-e6frea6u-1226135219617>

### **Parents forced to go private to treat child learning disorders – Narooma News Online**

10/09/2011

Jen Rosenberg

WHEN seven-year-old Peter Lukeides fell behind in reading and his classroom behaviour deteriorated, his mother, Nicole, took him to a speech pathologist.

"He didn't have any confidence," Mrs Lukeides said. "When it came to reading, it was absolutely torturous to get him to read a book. I was frustrated. You're trying to help, but they're just not picking it up."

Mrs Lukeides is one of an increasing number of parents who, frustrated with the limited resources available within the school system, are taking their children to private specialists to treat learning disorders.

Large numbers of children are starting school without basic speech and language skills that are critical to literacy development, said the president of Speech Pathology Australia, Christine Stone.

"We know that between 20 and 25 per cent of Australian children have difficulty understanding and using language on school entry, which is quite alarming," she said.

Mild learning disabilities are primarily dyslexia (difficulties with reading, writing and spelling) and dyscalculia (difficulties with basic numeracy).

Yet, the galling reality is that many children with literacy problems are otherwise very able, and sometimes highly gifted. They may have trouble processing language or recognising particular sounds, or have speech problems that lead to significant communication issues.

Both state and federal governments are pouring money into school programs, but health practitioners and teachers say there still is not enough funding for children to be assessed in the first place, nor to address needs when they are identified. This is driving those who can afford therapists, who can cost more than \$100 a week, to seek help outside the school system.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.naroomanewsonline.com.au/news/national/national/education/parents-forced-to-go-private-to-treat-child-learning-disorders/2287311.aspx?storypage=0>

### **Bid to get more state support for dyslexic children – Hobsons Bay Leader**

07/09/2011

Laura Keys

THE State Government has refused to be drawn on whether it will recognise dyslexia as a specific learning disability, although it has admitted that children with dyslexia may need extra support at school.

A support group for teachers and parents of dyslexic children, founded by Altona North mother Julie Martin and Yarraville's Rebecca Cleaver, is pushing for state recognition of the disorder to improve services.

Dyslexia Support Group West wants the State Government to introduce legislation similar to that in New South Wales, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, where dyslexia is an acknowledged learning disability.

But the Victorian Education Department did not respond to Leader's questions about whether it planned to follow the same path or if it would fund early assessments for dyslexia in state schools.

Mrs Martin said having children assessed at private clinics was costly.

An Education Department spokeswoman stated the department was "developing a suite (of) resources to support teachers and parents in the initial identification, teaching and monitoring of students with learning difficulties and dyslexia".

<http://hobsons-bay-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/bid-to-get-more-state-support-for-dyslexic-children/>

### **University's axing hits disability sector – Brimbank Weekly**

06/09/2011

Anthony Loncaric

A TAYLORS Lakes student is furious her university has cut the only disability-specific degree offered in Victoria, saying people who want to work in the sector will have limited options.

RMIT University will not offer its bachelor of applied sciences (disability) program beyond this year.

It says the 235 students enrolled in the program will be supported to complete the program or equivalent.

The degree aims to educate graduates to offer leadership, innovation and quality service to groups which support people with disabilities.

Graduates can work as house supervisors, specialist workers, program managers, case managers, disability liaison officers, project officers or in other professional roles in the broader community and disability sectors.

RMIT pro vice-chancellor and vice-president in science, engineering and health, Professor Peter Coloe, said the university axed the program because interest had diminished in recent years.

"The course recorded its lowest number of applicants in 2010," he said.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/universitys-axing-hits-disability-sector/2281484.aspx>

### **Independent reports released by Review of School Funding want private schools to take more disadvantaged pupils – Daily Telegraph**

01/09/2011

Jenny Dillon

PRIVATE schools that receive millions of dollars in government funds should earn their money by taking in more disadvantaged students.

This was a finding from one of four independent reports released by the Review of School Funding yesterday.

The majority of disadvantaged students are carried by the public sector at a cost of \$4.5 billion. School Education Minister Peter Garrett yesterday said two key things stood out - the complexity of the existing funding arrangements and the "persistent long tail" of students from a disadvantaged background not achieving their full potential.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/independent-reports-released-by-review-of-school-funding-want-private-schools-to-take-more-disadvantaged-pupils/story-e6freuy9-1226126914460>

### **Pool funding for disabled students: ACER – ninemsn**

31/08/2011

Schools need a substantial new funding pool to help them meet costs for students with disabilities, a new report says.

The Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) report, released on Wednesday, suggests Catholic and independent schools in particular have trouble covering one-off costs to support disabled students, such as installing elevators for wheelchairs.

The ACER has told the federal government's school funding review a minimum disabilities entitlement should be established.

Each state or territory's education department should set up a fund for this purpose, taking in existing allocations for disability funding from federal, state and territory programs, it says.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://news.ninemsn.com.au/national/8292414/pool-funding-for-disabled-students-acer>

### **Principals 'over a barrel' schooling disabled children – Canberra Times**

31/08/2011

Emma MacDonald

Micah Wilson, 12, brings far more to Trinity Christian School than he takes from it, according to principal Carl Palmer.

But as a student with an autism disorder who needs additional assistance including a teacher's aid, Micah also costs more than the average student to educate.

Students with disabilities have historically been wedged between different funding regimes for government and non-government schools.

If they are enrolled in a government school, they attract state and territory government subsidies to cover the cost of their

disability up to five times more than if they are enrolled in the non-government system.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/education/principals-over-a-barrel-schooling-disabled-children/2275976.aspx?storypage=0>

### **Too costly to help disabled at school – Age**

26/08/2011

Michelle Griffin

VICTORIAN education authorities insist they have the right to restrict the number of integration aides and other specialists that they hire - even if it means discriminating against students with disabilities.

And the state says it would cost almost \$1 billion if it had to hire an integration aide for every student with an IQ of 75 or less, which it could not afford.

The lawyers for Victoria's Education Department are arguing that states' rights trump the Federal Disability Discrimination Act in a submission to a discrimination case currently being considered by the Federal Court.

Jade Sievwright, a Victorian teenager with an IQ of around 70, is suing the Education Department for discrimination, claiming it failed to provide her with the integration aide and speech therapist she needs to reach her full potential.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/too-costly-to-help-disabled-at-school-20110825-1jcdw.html>

### **Students with mental illness often don't ask for help**

15 Aug 11 by Jennifer Bennett One of the big issues is making students aware that there is support on campus.

"Do you have a disability?" This is one of the first things a student is asked at enrolment. Tick yes and a world of help opens, from special consideration and exam aids to assistance with building access.

But students with mental illnesses rarely think to tick that box, a conference in Melbourne heard last week, and even if they do, most universities are ill-equipped to help them.

Conversations with staff about mental health literacy at Victoria University led Professor Tony Jorm from Orygen Youth Health Research Centre at the University of Melbourne to start thinking about the need for a set of guidelines to enable tertiary education institutions to engage better with mentally ill students.

Speaking at the National Summit on the Mental Health of Tertiary Students in Melbourne on August 5, his colleague Dr Nicola Reavley, the chief investigator in the guideline's development, told about the process she and Jorm developed.

For the rest of the article go to

[www.campusreview.com.au/pages/section/article.php?s=News&idArticle=21808](http://www.campusreview.com.au/pages/section/article.php?s=News&idArticle=21808)

### **Sounds - not just letters - lost in dyslexic translation**

Pam Belluck

August 11, 2011 .

MANY people consider dyslexia to be a reading problem in which children mix up letters and misconstrue written words. But scientists believe the reading difficulties of dyslexia are part of a larger puzzle: how the brain processes speech and puts together words from smaller units of sound.

A study published in the journal Science suggests that how dyslexic people hear language may be more important than previously realised. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) researchers have found those with dyslexia have more trouble recognising voices.

Professor of cognitive neuroscience John Gabrieli and graduate student Tyler Perrachione asked people to listen to recorded voices paired with cartoon avatars on computer screens. The subjects tried to match the voices to the correct avatars speaking English and then an unfamiliar language, Mandarin.

Non-dyslexics matched voices to avatars correctly almost 70 per cent of the time when the language was English and half the time when it was Mandarin. But people with dyslexia were able to do so only half the time, whether the language was English or Mandarin. Experts not involved in the study say it is a striking disparity.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/health/sounds--not-just-letters--lost-in-dyslexic-translation-20110810-1imoy.html>

### **Elia can't walk, can't control his body - and can't get an aide – Age**

10/08/2011

Jewel Topsfield

EVERY day Elia Namugurulem is forced to leave school early because he has soiled his clothing.

The prep student has spina bifida, a congenital disorder which means he cannot walk and has no control over his bladder and bowels.

He also has a major intellectual disability and must undergo regular operations to drain fluid from his brain or have corrective surgery on his legs.

But according to the Education Department, Elia is not eligible for the level of disability funding Berwick Lodge Primary School says he needs to provide him with a full-time aide.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/education/elia-cant-walk-cant-control-his-body--and-cant-get-an-aide-20110809-1ikxd.html>

### **Mental health issues among students to escalate – Australian**

10/08/2011

Andrew Trounson

MENTAL health issues among the student population are likely to escalate as universities attract more young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, researchers have warned.

They point to the need for universities to boost efforts to provide mental health services in line with the school sector.

A communique from the student mental health summit, held in Melbourne last week, will call on the sector to adopt best-practice guidelines. It will also urge the adoption of a routine reporting mechanism in which students can identify mental health issues so that universities can assess the need for services and eventually make the case for extra government funding.

An analysis of major population surveys has found that students with financial problems are three times as likely as other people to report high levels of psychological distress, putting them at risk of developing a mental illness.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/higher-education/mental-health-issues-among-students-to-escalate/story-e6frgcjx-1226111953584>

### **Employment News:**

#### **Strong response to disability strategy**

A Ministerial Memorandum has been issued committing NSW Government Departments and Agencies to the National Disability Strategy being developed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG).

Signed by the Premier, Barry O'Farrell, Ministerial Memorandum M2011-15 National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 says the Government is committed to improving the lives of all people with a disability in NSW and was collaborating with the Commonwealth and other States and Territories to develop the national strategy.

"The National Disability Strategy is a 10-year plan (2010-2020) for enabling people with a disability to fulfill their potential as equal citizens," the Memorandum says.

"The Strategy recognises that full participation and social inclusion for people with a disability cannot be addressed by the specialist disability system alone – the engagement of mainstream areas such as education, health, transport and housing is essential."

It says to drive implementation of the Strategy in NSW, a NSW Implementation Plan would be developed and linked to existing disability action planning processes.

For the rest of the article go to

[http://nsw.psnews.com.au/Page\\_NSWpsn23810.html](http://nsw.psnews.com.au/Page_NSWpsn23810.html)

### **Support for workers with disabilities calls for three-way partnership – Brisbane Times**

01/08/2011

Graham Bradley

IMPROVING employment opportunities for people with disabilities is a win-win goal for business and the community sector. Three recent federal government changes to disability-related payments are important steps in helping people who want to work to be in a better position to do so. But government, business and the community need to work together to make these changes work in the way they are intended.

There is much common ground between large employers and community in wanting to support groups of Australians currently under-represented in our workforce.

A similar level of common ground has been demonstrated by our political leaders in achieving bipartisan agreement on much-needed changes to disability-related payments and support. Every Australian should be encouraged and enabled to participate in the workforce and community life, yet too many people with a disability face barriers when it comes to looking for work. A little over half of working-age Australians with a disability are in the labour force compared with the 83 per cent of working-age Australians without a disability, and we need to address this imbalance.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/business/support-for-workers-with-disabilities-calls-for-threeway-partnership-20110831-1jm03.html>

### **Bosses reluctant to hire disabled workers – Herald Sun**

30/08/2011

SOME employers are still reluctant to hire disabled workers because of a misconception they will be less productive, a new study says.

The research, commissioned by the federal government's Disability Employment Services program, found widespread recognition that workers with disabilities had a lot to offer.

But the report said small employers were more likely to need persuading that productivity would not be a problem when hiring a person with a disability.

The study found changing economic conditions had increased employers' concerns about the costs of hiring disabled people, compared to three years ago.

"Employers who hire people with disability will often say that these are some of the most loyal, reliable and hardest workers they've ever had," Employment Participation Minister Kate Ellis said today.

For the rest of the article go to

[www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/bosses-reluctant-to-hire-disabled-workers/story-e6frf7jx-1226125368979](http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/bosses-reluctant-to-hire-disabled-workers/story-e6frf7jx-1226125368979)

### **Bill Shorten challenges bosses to use flexibility of IR laws – Australian**

18/08/2011

Matthew Franklin

ASSISTANT Treasurer Bill Shorten has accused employers of failing to properly utilise flexibility provisions within Labor's industrial relations laws and of discriminating against mature and disabled workers.

Rejecting business sector complaints that the Fair Work Act was too inflexible to promote productivity gains, Mr Shorten has also warned that factors including infrastructure and shortages of skilled labour have a greater effect on holding back productivity.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/shorten-challenges-bosses-to-use-flexibility-of-ir-laws/story-fn59niix-1226117020044>

### **Welfare News:**

#### **Rejection rates for Disability Support Pension keep rising – Daily Telegraph**

03/09/2011

RECORD rates of applicants for the Disability Support Pension are being turned away, government figures show.

The rejection rate rose by more than 7 per cent over the past year, with just 55.6 per cent of applicants approved for the pension.

From today, people applying for the DSP will be required to show they have looked for suitable work or have asked for help to potentially work, with rejection rates expected to spike again.

The government fast-tracked the work requirements, which were due to come in on January 1, after it realised many people applying for the DSP had not acquired a new disability but had lost their job, were unable to find one, or were not getting the help they needed.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/sydney-nsw/rejection-rates-for-disability-support-pension-keep-rising/story-e6freuzi-1226128497543>

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/more-news/government-gets-tough-on-disability-spending/story-fn7x8me2->

[1226128451843](#)

### **Reforms tip disability pensioners on to dole – Australian**

05/09/2011

Sue Dunlevy

DISABILITY reforms will tip tens of thousands more people than predicted off the Disability Support Pension and on to the dole, saving the government \$111.8 million more than forecast, a Senate committee has heard.

The National Council on Intellectual Disability has tested the government's new impairment tables used to assess a person's work capacity and found every person with an intellectual disability and an IQ of between 70 and 79 would fail to get the pension.

The government is introducing several measures to tighten access to the Disability Support Pension, which it believes is growing unsustainably.

The pension is received by 815,000 Australians, up by 100,000 from two years ago.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/reforms-tip-disability-pensioners-on-to-dole/story-fn59niix-1226129295948>

### **Disability changes to rely on Coalition – Australian**

17/08/2011

Sue Dunlevy

JULIA Gillard will have to rely on the opposition to get tough new restrictions on the disability pension through parliament after the Greens signalled they would oppose the changes.

One in four applicants for the disability pension is likely to be ineligible under new impairment tables before parliament.

Greens welfare spokeswoman Rachel Siewert says the changes "are designed to restrict access to disability support, not help people into the workforce" and would force disabled people to survive on just \$34 a day.

A spokesman for Senator Siewert said the Greens were "not disposed to support the bill unless the Senate inquiry into the tables can prove the changes will be beneficial".

The Greens' stand means the government will have to rely on the opposition to get the measures through the Senate, where the Greens hold the balance of power.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/disability-changes-to-rely-on-coalition/story-fn59niix-1226116317649>

### **Disability scheme 'cannot be rushed' – Australian**

14/08/2011

FEDERAL Assistant Treasurer Bill Shorten has defended a seven-year lead-in period for a national disability insurance scheme, saying it cannot be established overnight.

Under a timetable recommended by the Productivity Commission a trial of the scheme would begin in a few regions around mid-2014 before being rolled out progressively to full coverage by 2018/19.

The government has yet to commit to the commission's timetable, limiting its response to supporting "the vision" and providing \$10 million for technical policy work.

A national scheme would come with an annual price tag of about \$14 billion, effectively doubling the amount Australian governments now spend on disability support services.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/disability-scheme-cannot-be-rushed/story-fn59niix-1226114658417>

### **Call for tough love to curb misuse of disability benefit – Australian**

10/08/2011

Matthew Franklin

MANY Australians are using the Disability Support Pension as an early retirement option, with one in five men aged 63 and 64 claiming the benefit, the Gillard government has been warned.

A review of the pension also reveals very few DSP recipients return to work. Most either die or move on to the aged pension.

It recommends a tough-love approach that appears to have informed Labor's push to significantly lift the number of DSP recipients who enter the workforce.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/call-for-tough-love-to-curb-misuse-of-disability-benefit/story-e6fmg6nf-1226111964546>

## **International News:**

### **Life Paths Diverge for Young Adults With, Without Disabilities**

By Nirvi Shah on September 8, 2011

Six years after high school, students with disabilities are less likely to have gone on to postsecondary schools than their classmates without disabilities and less likely to be financially independent, but a little more likely to have children, according to a new report from the National Center for Special Education Research.

The report found that 55 percent of young people with disabilities reported having continued on to postsecondary school since leaving high school, compared with 62 percent of their peers in the general population.

These and other conclusions were based on 10-year-long study of the characteristics, experiences, and outcomes of a nationally representative sample of youth with disabilities. The National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 focuses on students who were 13 to 16 years old and receiving special education services in grade 7 or above on Dec. 1, 2000.

Perhaps predictably, young adults with learning disabilities, speech and language impairments, orthopedic impairments, other health impairments, traumatic brain injuries, autism, or emotional disturbances were more likely to be working on their education beyond high school compared to students with other types of disabilities, such as mental retardation.

For the rest of the article go to

[http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/speced/2011/09/six\\_years\\_after\\_high\\_school.html](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/speced/2011/09/six_years_after_high_school.html)

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## **Opinion:**

### **Not disabled enough for the census – ABC News Online [The Drum]**

09/08/2011

Stella Young

I'm pretty darn excited about tonight. I've turned down a dinner invitation, marked it in my calendar and taken the phone off the hook in preparation for the important task ahead.

That's right, it's census night, and my pen is at the ready. I've even filled out the sample form downloadable from the Australian Bureau of Statistics website. Yeah, I'm that kind of nerd.

I really love filling out forms; quite fortuitous really, given that as one of Australia's 4 million-ish disabled people, ticking boxes and recording my life for other people is what I've spent a fair chunk of my time doing. There are forms to apply for wheelchairs and mobility aids, forms from the access and equity departments in our workplaces, forms in employment services, at Centrelink, in the offices of our doctors and caseworkers. Good thing I get a kick out of a nice juicy box-filled form.

Tonight, I'll be in heaven, filling out the mother of all forms; the 2011 census. I'll get to record the language I speak at home, my highest level of education, details of my income, employment, religion, ancestry. What I won't get to do is say that I'm a person with a disability.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-08-09/young-not-disabled-enough-for-the-census/2831560>

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## **Conferences and Workshops:**

### **Accessing the Future: Instruct, Inspire, Include**

#### **Inclusive Technologies & Learning Disability in Education & Employment Conference**

Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley, Lovedale, NSW

<http://www.crowneplazahuntervalley.com.au>

7 - 9 December 2011

Registrations are now open

Go to <http://cre8inggrowth.com.au/ndcoconference>

If you have any problems registering please contact the Conference Secretariat on +651 2 4969 7555 or email [kerry@cre8inggrowth.com.au](mailto:kerry@cre8inggrowth.com.au)

The conference program is also now available

### **Join the Accessing the Future Conference on Facebook.**

To be kept up to date with the latest developments regarding the conference go to <http://www.facebook.com/accessingthefuture> and just like :-)

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### **Calls for Expressions of Interest and Input:**

#### **Applications for the Summer 2011/12 intake of Stepping into...**

NOW OPEN!

Opportunities exist over the Summer 2011-2012 semester break in the Stepping into... program for students in the following disciplines:

- Law
- Accounting
- Human Resources
- Policy
- Finance
- Marketing
- Communications
- IT

<http://www.and.org.au/content/view/443/23/> for more information.

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### **Studies and Research:**

#### **Social capital and youth transitions: do young people's networks improve their participation in education and training?**

In this paper the authors explore the relationship between social capital at age 15 and participation in education and training at age 17. Using data from the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY) 2003 cohort, the analysis shows that social capital does play an important role in influencing educational participation. For both males and females, participation in school-based activities is found to have the greatest influence on participation in education and training, followed by the strength of the relationship students have with their teachers. Of particular interest, the authors find that social capital influences educational participation over and above the effects of background characteristics such as parental education and occupation, geographic location, cultural background and academic achievement.

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2408.html>

#### **Disability Care and Support Inquiry report**

This inquiry report was released on 10 August 2011.

<http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/disability-support/report>

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## Publication:

### Which paths work for which young people?

In this paper, the authors identify various educational paths involving school and post-school study and assess the effectiveness of these in relation to post-school outcomes at age 25 years. They use the 1995 cohort of the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth and find that, for males, undertaking an apprenticeship after completing senior secondary and university are attractive paths. For females, the best path is that of university study, even for those with low academic orientation.

<http://www.isay.edu.au/publications/2397.html>

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## New Resources:

### YouthGas

When a young person is going through a tough time, conversations with friends and family play a big part in early help seeking. We know that getting help and getting help early can make a big difference. In the lead up to R U OK?Day, September 15th, headspace has developed two new and exciting resources to help young people support their friend through a tough time:

- 'If your friend is not okay...' fact sheet
- A video, titled 'how are your mates going?' Which aims to target young men and encourage them to seek help early

Download the resources at <http://www.headspace.org.au/about-headspace/news-videos/news/ruok-day> , find out more about headspace or find your nearest headspace centre at <http://www.headspace.org.au>

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## Media Releases:

### Catering service recognised for supporting employees with disability - Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

PORTFOLIO: Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

URL: [http://www.janmclucas.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2011/pages/cateringservicerecognised\\_05sep\\_11.aspx](http://www.janmclucas.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2011/pages/cateringservicerecognised_05sep_11.aspx)

SNIPPET: A gourmet caf and catering service has taken out top honours in the 2011 Australian Disability Enterprises Excellence Award. Three Australian Disability Enterprises were honoured for their commitment to employees with disability at the Australian Disability Enterprises Excellence Award ceremony in Sydney during the National Disability Services Employment Forum today. dal Gourmet Caf and Catering is a supported employment and training organisation, operating a gourmet catering service and two retail cafes in Geelong.

### New advisory group on school students with disability

PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

URL: [http://www.deewr.gov.au/ministers/garrett/media/releases/pages/article\\_110907\\_083654.aspx](http://www.deewr.gov.au/ministers/garrett/media/releases/pages/article_110907_083654.aspx)

SNIPPET: A new Schools Disability Advisory Council will provide ongoing, expert advice to the Gillard Government on how to provide more support and better services for students with disability. The National Disability Strategy recognises that targeted support is needed to help those people who are at a disadvantage get a quality education both at school and into their adult life, she said. For further information on the More Support for Students with Disabilities visit .

### Supporting people with disability to try work - The Hon Jenny Macklin MP

PORTFOLIO: Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

URL: [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2011/pages/supporting\\_people\\_disability\\_to\\_work.aspx](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2011/pages/supporting_people_disability_to_work.aspx)

SNIPPET: >From today people applying for the Disability Support Pension (DSP), other than people with a severe disability or illness, will have to show they have tried to get help to find work before they can be eligible for the disability

pension. People with severe disability or illness who are clearly unable to work will be fast-tracked to ensure they receive support quickly. To assist people with disability to get help to find work the Government is investing more than \$3 billion over the next four years to uncap access to Disability Employment Services.

#### **Next phase in school funding review with four new reports released today**

URL: [http://www.deewr.gov.au/ministers/garrett/media/releases/pages/article\\_110831\\_121911.aspx](http://www.deewr.gov.au/ministers/garrett/media/releases/pages/article_110831_121911.aspx)

SNIPPET: The next phase of the Gillard Government's school funding review is underway with the release of four new, independent research reports, School Education Minister Peter Garrett said today. The Gillard Government is determined to put in place a fairer and more transparent way of funding our schools, which is why we commissioned the first comprehensive, independent review of school funding in more than 30 years, he said. The four reports released today are:.

#### **Minister calls on employers to give people with a disability a go**

URL: [http://www.deewr.gov.au/ministers/ellis/media/releases/pages/article\\_110830\\_101408.aspx](http://www.deewr.gov.au/ministers/ellis/media/releases/pages/article_110830_101408.aspx)

SNIPPET: Minister for Employment Participation, Kate Ellis today released the Employer perspectives on recruiting people with disability and the role of Disability Employment Services study. Today I am calling on Australian employers to recognise the many benefits of hiring someone with a disability and giving them a chance to have a decent job and contribute to our economy. Employers can learn about becoming a disability confident' organisation and the incentives and support services available to employers and people with disability, by calling a JobAccess Adviser on or by visiting.

#### **Productivity commission's final report into disability care and support - Senator the Hon Jan McLucas**

PORTFOLIO: Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

URL:

[http://www.janmclucas.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2011/pages/productivity\\_commission\\_final\\_rpt\\_10082011.aspx](http://www.janmclucas.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2011/pages/productivity_commission_final_rpt_10082011.aspx)

SNIPPET: The Gillard Labor Government today announced that it will start work immediately with states and territories on measures that will build the foundations for a National Disability Insurance Scheme, following the release of the Productivity Commission's final report into the matter. The Government asked the Productivity Commission to examine reform of disability support services because we believe that the system we have today is not delivering the kind of care and support Australians expect for people with disability. For a copy of the Productivity Commission report visit.

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