



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment
and Workplace Relations



CDS

Centre for

Disability

Studies

Disability Education and Employment News: No. 12, Vol 7.

In this edition of the Disability Education and Employment News, we have information on the 'Disability Employment SA Symposium', the 'Working in the West conference', 'Spectronics on the road in 2011: Melbourne', the inaugural 'Disability Employment Summit' and the 'Biennial 2011 Accessing the Future: Inclusive Technologies in Education and Employment Conference'. As well as information on the 'Call to Action – ideas for an employment pathway into the APS for students with disability' and the 'Stepping into... Summer 2011/12'.

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.

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Education News:

Rise of autism puts strain on public school budgets

Andrew Stevenson

October 26, 2011

THE number of children in NSW public schools with autism is nearly four times higher than it was just eight years ago, placing a significant strain on the Education Department budget.

Figures released by the department yesterday show that in 2003 slightly more than 2000 students across the state had been diagnosed with the disorder; this year some 8400 students have been diagnosed.

In the same period the number of children in public schools with mental health disorders including depression and some serious behavioural disorders has almost doubled to 8000 students.

In stark contrast, the number of students with intellectual or physical disabilities has not changed. Fewer students have hearing or vision disabilities.

In 1988 only 1.9 per cent of NSW public school students had a confirmed disability. After doubling by 1998, the percentage has continued to rise and now sits at 6 per cent. By 2020, the government expects one in 10 students to have a diagnosed disability.

In 1998 NSW spent \$425 million on disability funding in schools. This year the department will spend \$1.18 billion.

Another 6 per cent of the total school population of 740,000 students have additional needs related to learning difficulties and behavioural disorders including attention deficit disorders, dyslexia, language or communication delays.

For the rest of the article go to

www.smh.com.au/nsw/rise-of-autism-puts-strain-on-public-school-budgets-20111025-1mi5g.html

Calls to add mental health to high school subjects list

Jenna Clarke

October 14, 2011 Vote

Calls to combine mental health issues with regular school subjects like physical education, science and maths in an effort to reduce the stigma and raise awareness.

The differentiation between normal behaviour and deeper issues in teenagers could become easier to identify with calls to have mental health to be included in the high school curriculum.

New research released this week indicates one third of young West Australians who are under the age of 24 experience mental health and illness every year.

Suicide is the leading cause of death in WA for those aged between 15 and 19 and, according to mental health professionals, one young person takes their own life every week in WA.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.smh.com.au/wa-news/calls-to-add-mental-health-to-high-school-subjects-list-20111013-1lmyy.html>

New national curriculum standards endorsed – Ninemsn

14/10/2011

State and federal education ministers have endorsed the standards by which students will be assessed in the new Australian curriculum.

The standards are to be streamlined nationally in the new curriculum subjects of maths, science, English and history, School Education Minister Peter Garrett says.

"We already had the content, now we have the validated standards against which students will be assessed," Mr Garrett said after the ministers met in Melbourne on Friday.

"Teachers can be confident, no matter what state they teach in, they have the opportunity for the mutual recognition of their training and that's actually better for schools, better for students and better for teachers," he said.

Ministers have also agreed on the country's first ever plan for a national model to identify students with a disability.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://news.ninemsn.com.au/national/8360399/new-national-curriculum-standards-endorsed>

Ministers to define disabilities – Age

14/10/2011

Richard Willingham

A NATIONAL standard for identifying students with disabilities is expected to be approved by education ministers at a meeting of state and federal governments in Melbourne today. If agreed, the national definition would provide the government with nationally consistent data, which could be used on the MySchool website, and help develop policy.

States have disparate numbers of students with a disability, with only 3.1 per cent in Western Australia, 11.8 per cent in

the Northern Territory and 4.8 per cent in Victoria.

The federal government says it will give a better picture of how many students in Australia have disabilities, what assistance they receive and where resources are needed.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/ministers-to-define-disabilities-20111013-1ln1n.html>

Bid to get more support for dyslexic children – Marybyrnong Leader

17/09/2011

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 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 and support for their children.

For the rest of the article go to

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

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Employment News:

Disabled workers lose pay case – Sydney Morning Herald

16/09/2011

Melissa Iaria

Two intellectually disabled men have lost a court battle with the federal government which they hoped would boost pay for 20,000 disabled workers across Australia.

Gordon Prior and Michael Nojin claimed that disabled workers have been severely underpaid under a federal assessment tool.

But in Melbourne on Friday, Federal Court Justice Peter Gray said the men had failed to show they were unlawfully discriminated against.

Mr Prior, from Ararat in Victoria, who has a vision and intellectual impairment, worked as a gardener for \$3.82 an hour.

Michael Nojin, from Coffs Harbour in NSW, who has cerebral palsy, epilepsy, impaired motor skills and an intellectual disability, has swept floors and shredded documents for \$1.85 an hour.

At issue was the Business Service Wage Assessment Tool (BSWAT), introduced in 2004 for disabled people who work at disability enterprises, or what were known as sheltered workshops.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/disabled-workers-lose-pay-case-20110916-1kd0o.html>

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Welfare News:

Even conservatives say the dole is too low – Sydney Morning Herald

16/10/2011

Misha Schubert

THE right-wing economist handpicked by former prime minister John Howard to set the minimum wage has declared the dole is too low and warned that giving people so little to survive on is causing desperation and depression.

Joining an unlikely conservative push for a rise in the Newstart Allowance, Ian Harper argued its level was now so low compared with disability pensions and the basic wage that even "hard-hearted conservatives" were alarmed at the lack of compassion.

Fellow conservative economist Judith Sloan argued at the recent tax summit that the dole was no longer adequate, particularly for those stuck on it for a long time.

The dole is now \$245 a week, compared with \$375 for the disability pension and \$590 for the minimum wage. Professor Sloan said that gap would continue to grow without changes to the law, because the dole is indexed by inflation yet pensions are tied to faster-growing wages. By 2015, the dole would amount to just a third of the disability pension.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/even-conservatives-say-the-dole-is-too-low-20111015-1lqm6.html>

Giving and taking away: NDIS and disability pension reform – The Conversation

14/10/2011

Karen Soldatic

A report released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) finds the number of Australians using disability support services is increasing. But it's uncertain how the government will provide ongoing services for these people.

People with disabilities, their families and carers have long waited for a social support system that effectively responds to their real needs.

But while the Government-endorsed National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) promises to provide effective help, other changes in disability policy seem to be removing supports for people with disabilities.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://theconversation.edu.au/giving-and-taking-away-ndis-and-disability-pension-reform-3230>

Pension payments insufficient- academic – Herald Sun

05/10/2011

AAP

AUSTRALIA'S social security system has many strengths, but there are still areas, such as pensions, where people are getting inadequate payments, an academic says.

Professor Peter Whiteford, from the University of New South Wales social policy research centre, told the transfer payments session of the government's tax forum that Australia spent less than the average of the rich nations in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

"We are about the sixth or seventh lowest spender on Social Security, but we income test more than any other country in the world, I would say," he said in Canberra today.

He said Australian transfer payments targeted the poor better than any other OECD nation, with the amount of social security benefits paid in cash to the poorest 20 per cent of the population about 12 times as great as that paid to the richest 20 per cent.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/pension-payments-insufficient-academic/story-e6frf7ko-1226158964743>

Diminishing dole a 'ticking time bomb' – Sydney Morning Herald

19/09/2011

Peter Martin

AUSTRALIA'S 3.4 million pensioners can loosen their belts from tomorrow. They'll get a pay rise of \$19.50 a fortnight. But those on Newstart unemployment benefits and student allowances won't be so lucky - they'll get an extra \$11.73.

The disparity between the two increases means Newstart is worth just two-thirds of the pension - and is set to fall to less than half of the pension by 2040.

And new rules governing eligibility for the disability support pension to take effect in January will tip an increasing number of Australians off the disability pension on to Newstart, cutting their take-home benefit by \$262 a fortnight.

"It's a ticking time bomb," says Cassandra Goldie, chief executive of the Australian Council of Social Service.

"The government's own estimate is that the chance of getting assessed as eligible for the disability pension will drop 40 per cent. As existing recipients are reassessed they will drop on to an unemployment benefit that even the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development says isn't up to the job."

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/diminishing-dole-a-ticking-time-bomb-20110918-1kg5s.html>

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International News:

More schoolchildren 'being diagnosed with special needs'

The number of children diagnosed with special needs has soared by 10 per cent in just five years amid concerns schools are "playing the system" to disguise poor exam results.

Some 1.7m schoolchildren in England have been diagnosed with special educational needs, according to the Department for Education. Photo: PA

By Graeme Paton, Education Editor

6:30AM BST 20 Oct 2011

Official figures show more than one-in-five pupils in England are now labelled as suffering behavioural problems, learning and communication difficulties or physical disabilities.

A report published by the Department for Education today showed boys and children from the poorest backgrounds were significantly more likely to be classified than other pupils.

The study also underlined the link between special needs and poor examination results.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/8836704/More-schoolchildren-being-diagnosed-with-special-needs.html>

Interactive Tool Aims To Challenge Disability Employment Skeptics

By Shaun Heasley

In an effort to combat employer misconceptions, a new online tool is offering an estimate of the costs — and financial benefits — involved in hiring people with disabilities.

The tool, known as "Hire Gauge," asks for basic information including the company's size, location and industry in order to provide an assessment of the expenses and incentives involved in selecting a job applicant with a disability.

It is believed to be the first online tool to provide businesses with a real-time look at the tax incentives and other benefits they can tap into when hiring individuals with disabilities, according to officials with Think Beyond the Label, a public-private partnership which created Hire Gauge and supports disability employment.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.disabilityscoop.com/2011/09/23/interactive-tool-employment/14093/>

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Conferences and Workshops:

Disability Employment SA Symposium.

Registrations for DESA 2011 Symposium "Basic and Beyond", being held at the Education Development Centre on the 3rd November 2011, are open!

Download the booking sheet from: <http://www.adcet.edu.au/ndco/sa/View.aspx?id=7927>

This is the premier professional development opportunity for Disability Employment Services in SA for 2011. And this year we're making sure there will be something for everyone with great keynote sessions as well as breakout sessions on the basics for those new to the industry (or those needing a refresher!) and going beyond for the 'old hands' looking to take their knowledge to a new level.

Look Who's Presenting...

Preparations for DES 2011 Symposium "Basic and Beyond" are well underway and we're happy to confirm the following speakers will present their stories, achievements and lessons learnt to our delegation:

"Can't Walk. Can Fly" - Dale Elliot

In 1992, 16 year old Dale Elliott took the controls of an aeroplane for the first time. 10 years later at the age of 26 he was a full time commercial pilot and a licenced aircraft engineer. A guru of the sky, he was about to be grounded for life. A devastating motorbike accident shattered his spine and destroyed his spinal cord. Left a paraplegic, his life was fractured beyond repair. Everything he had worked hard for was lost. He went from commanding an aeroplane to

commanding a wheelchair. Despair was all around him, control was nowhere to be seen.
Hear about what came next and how his accident and his disability failed to define Dale or what he could achieve.
Program Highlights:

Post Placement and ongoing support, Lynette May, CEO of DEA
Key Note Speaker, Tom Vartzokas, Inspirational DES participant's story
Employment Assistance Fund, Wayne Allen, Multiple Solutions
Dealing with Difficult Participants, Ali Uren, Kiikstart
Engaging with Employers, Suzanne Colbert, CE: Australian Network on Disability

Working in the West conference

Nov 3rd and 4th PERTH

Tompkins on Swan Function Centre, Corner of Dunkley Avenue and Canning Highway Alfred Cove

Early Bird Registration (closes 17 October)

Full Registration, including Conference Sundowner \$395

Day Registration \$244

Conference Sundowner \$50

Note: After 17 October a 20% surcharge applies to the early bird rate.

For further information, contact:

David Rogers at NDS WA

Phone 9208 9815

david.rogers@nds.org.au

<https://www.conferenceonline.com/bookingform/index.cfm?page=booking&object=conference&id=16446&categorykey=1D5E213D-2879-45D6-8AD2-7E039FC78AD7&clear=1&bookingid=0&bookingkey=>

Spectronics on the road in 2011: Melbourne

Spectronics Workshops, Melbourne: Technologies Supporting Literacy Difficulties, Special Education and Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

Cliftons, Level 1, 440 Collins Street, MELBOURNE

Presented by:

Jane Farrall (Speech Pathologist / AAC Support Services Manager, Spectronics)

Greg O'Connor (Teacher / Education Services Manager, Spectronics)

Day One (Thursday 3rd November)

Workshop One - Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) in the Special Education Classroom

Workshop Two - Assistive Technology for Secondary Students who Struggle with Literacy

Day Two (Friday 4th November)

Workshop Three - Developing Literacy in Primary and Special Needs Classrooms

Workshop Four - Integrating Assistive Technologies Throughout the Curriculum in Special Education Classrooms

Just added! Workshops expanded to include discussion of Apps for iPhones and iPads!

Because we are so often asked about Apps for special ed, for AAC and for literacy support at both primary school and secondary school level, our presenters will now be including information about some Apps throughout each of their workshops. While this will not be the main focus of the sessions, we appreciate that discussing some App options will allow you to compare them with the other technology options presented in each session.

Workshop Registration Fee \$180 per day or \$295 for both days

For more information, contact Eliza Bale, Spectronics Events and Marketing Coordinator, elizab@spectronicsinoz.com, or (07) 3808 6833

Ready to Register NOW? Visit ... <http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/register> to register online or download the registration flyer.

Asperger's & Employment and Choosing the Right Career Path: Tasmania

NDCO Tas together with Autism Tasmania and Autism Noticeboard are pleased to bring Rudy Simone to Tasmania.

Rudy has written 3 books on Asperger's Syndrome and one of her particular focuses is on the world of work and careers. Her books are known for cutting to the real issues faced by people on the spectrum. backed by thorough research and her experiences living on the spectrum.

For more information on Rudy Simone go to her website by clicking [here](#)

The workshop will be held on Tuesday, 8th November, 9.30 am - 4pm (registrations and coffee between 9 - 9.30am). At the Tram Sheds, Inveresk, Launceston

Lunch, morning and afternoon tea included.

Visit <http://www.ndcotas.com.au/events/frontpage-events/aspergers-and-employment-and-choosing-the-right-career-path-8th-november> for further information and registration details.

The inaugural Disability Employment Summit

When: 17 - 18 November 2011

Where: Rendezvous Hotel, Melbourne

The Disability Employment Summit presents an opportunity for policy -makers and industry leaders to discuss the current opportunities and challenges surrounding the entry and progression of Australians with disability into the workforce.

The two-day conference will examine the programs and regulation that impact those with disability, opening an industry-wide dialogue to discuss the initiatives which successfully promote workforce participation.

Topics that will be discussed include:

- Company initiatives and adjusting corporate plans: what works?
- A critical review of the statistics: What do the numbers really tell us?
- The opportunities for economic growth in Australia
- Adjusting education
- The severe skills shortage
- Assessment of employment capacity
- Technology for the workplace: innovative systems and incorporating specialist software

<http://www.informa.com.au/conferences/human-resources-skilling/training/disability-employment-summit> for further information

Australia's welfare 2011 Conference

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is proud to launch their flagship report Australia's welfare 2011 at a national conference in Canberra on 24th November 2011.

Thursday 24 November 2011, National Convention Centre, Constitution Avenue, Canberra City. Registration from 8:00am.

For more information go to

<http://www.cvent.com/events/australia-s-welfare-2011-conference/event-summary-ef375aad9b2147a280454d239e99bf24.aspx>

EOPHEA Conference

EOPHEA (Equal Opportunity Practitioners in Higher Education Australasia) is the professional organisation for equity practitioners, university and TAFE / polytechnic / wānanga and other tertiary education providers who work in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific region.

This year's EOPHEA conference will commence Sunday, 27 November to Wednesday, 30 November.

It is hosted by the University of Auckland and consequently located in Auckland.

If you are interested you can visit the website for further info: <http://www.eophea2011.co.nz/index.htm>

Disability Studies: Conference

University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

Sunday 27th November - Wednesday 30th November 2011

Disability Studies is an interdisciplinary academic field that focuses on the experiences, perspectives, rights and leadership of disabled people. Interpreting disability within a social justice framework, Disability Studies encourages the exploration of disability issues across a wide range of disciplines as well as different socio-cultural, political, economic,

historical, legal, health, and educational contexts.

The aim of this inaugural conference is to provide a forum for people from diverse backgrounds and life experiences to share their knowledge and research with others. We warmly welcome the participation of:

People with impairments, family/whānau, support people

Educators, practitioners, service providers

Legal, business and community representatives

Policy makers, government employees

Researchers, students (including school, undergraduate and postgraduate students)

Anyone who has an interest in disability and social justice matters

The conference theme, Every Body In, is deliberately broad, in the hope that presentation topics and means of delivery will reflect the diverse nature of Disability Studies. We welcome innovative and creative presentations that are engaging and accessible, and that reflect a wide range of experiences, knowledge and research regarding disability matters in national and international contexts. The conference will be structured to encourage participants to meet and interact within and across particular interest and sector groups.

Keynote Speakers

Anne Hawker - President of Rehabilitation International

Professor Patricia O'Brien - Chair in Disability Studies & Director, Centre for Disability Studies, University of Sydney

Dr Tom Shakespeare - Author, social scientist, bioethicist and editor of the World Report on Disability

Further information - <http://www.otago.ac.nz/disabilitystudiesconference/>

The Biennial 2011 Accessing the Future: Inclusive Technologies in Education and Employment Conference

The Biennial 2011 Accessing the Future: Inclusive Technologies in Education and Employment Conference follows the successful 2009 events in Newcastle and Sydney; the 2007 events in Sydney, Newcastle and Bomaderry; and the 2005 and 2003 Forums held in the Hunter and Central Coast. The event typically attracts more than 600 registrants.

In 2011 the Conference will be offered over three days in one location, at the Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley, a premier conference and accommodation venue located in the Hunter Valley vineyards at Lovedale.

When: 7 - 9 December 2011

Where: Crowne Plaza in the Hunter Valley, NSW.

Day 1: Pre-Conference Inclusive Technologies Workshops

Day 2: Inclusive Technologies Conference - workshops & hands-on sessions

Day 3: Focus on Learning Disability in Education and Employment - Practice, Theory and Technology

Why a third day focussing on learning disability? The Convenors also head up the Australian Learning Disability Association and have been observing a range of needs for training in this area. More on this new aspect of the program shortly.

There will also be a large Expo featuring key inclusive technology and related suppliers from across Australia.

Speakers already confirmed

- Greg O'Connor, Spectronics Inclusive Learning Technologies (a much sought after speaker presenting over the three days of the Conference)
- Gerry Kennedy, ICT Consultant (a favourite from previous events)
- Greg Alchin, Winner of many Awards including Apple Distinguished Educator
- Tim Connell, Quantum Technology

Who Should Come?

The Conference is designed to provide information and practical advice to:

- School, VET, and University staff (teaching and support staff)
- Employers
- Students and People with a disability
- Families of people with a disability
- Employment Services staff
- Disability Services
- Australian Apprenticeships Centre staff

- ADHC staff, including 'Transition to Work' and 'Community Participation' Program Providers
- Government and Non-Government Agencies

The Program is now available [http://cre8ingrowth.com.au/ndcoconference/?page_id=2](http://cre8inggrowth.com.au/ndcoconference/?page_id=2)

Inclusive Learning Technologies Conference: Register Now

Jupiters Gold Coast Convention Centre, Queensland, Australia

22nd - 25th May 2012

Hosted by Spectronics, the conference focuses specifically on "inclusive learning technologies" - technologies designed to advance independent achievement for people with disabilities and/or students with learning difficulties/disabilities. It includes sessions looking at these technologies in the following three interest streams: Struggling Students, People with Complex Communication Needs, People with Disabilities.

We have also fully updated information about our Keynote and Featured Presenters on the conference home page. It's worth a visit not just to read their bios, but to view videos, listen to podcasts, see their past presentations, and download handouts and useful resources! We have a pretty clever line-up already as you'll see with four keynotes and several featured presenters already confirmed. The two of most interest to readers of this list are Joy Zabala, from CAST in the USA. She is very much involved in initiatives around accessible instructional materials and Universal Design for Learning. Kelly Fonner from the USA will also be returning and will be presenting workshops and papers on assistive technologies for support of students with learning disabilities.

Further information on the conference and how to register can be found at <http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/conference/2012/>

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TAS Events:

Providing Solutions II : Assistive Technology Forum

Thursday 17th November at University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay

Forum on Assistive Technology in Education, Training & Employment for people with a Disability or Learning Difficulties

After a very successful event last year we are once again bringing together local and national experts to provide you with up-to-date skills and knowledge on:

iPad applications; Free assistive technology software; MS Word add-ins; Read & Write Gold; Dragon Naturally Speaking; and Services and products for people with vision impairment, hearing impairments and physical disabilities

Click here <http://www.ndcotas.com.au/events/frontpage-events/providing-solutions-ii-assistive-technology-forum-17th-november> for more information and to register on-line

Engaging VET Learners through iPads Workshop

Friday 18th November at University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay

This hands-on workshop has been specifically designed for the VET sector to maximise the use of iPads to support learners who struggle with VET literacy requirements.

Click <http://www.ndcotas.com.au/events/frontpage-events/engaging-vet-learners-through-ipads> for more information and to download a registration form

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Calls for Expressions of Interest and Input:

Call to Action – ideas for an employment pathway into the APS for students with disability

The Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) is inviting TAFE and University Students, Disability Support Officers and Career Advisors to complete a survey, seeking thoughts, ideas and opinions on a potential employment pathway for students with disability into the Australian Public Service. This survey forms part of the Commission's work to improve disability employment and create inclusive workplaces.

For action: Please take the time to complete the survey. Please also forward the survey to your network of students with

disabilities, encouraging their participation.

Here is a link to our website where you can find more information and the survey link:

<http://www.apsc.gov.au/abilityatwork/25employmentpathways.htm>

The survey closes Friday 18 November, however we hope to catch as many students prior to the end of the study year.

It is vital that we receive as many responses to the survey as possible – your expert advice combined with student's personal preferences will greatly inform our thinking on a potential new employment pathway.

For more information, please feel free to contact

Melanie Eldred | Project Officer

Workforce Participation - Disability

Melanie.Eldred@apsc.gov.au

Spectronics' free online training

Join our professional training services team (Jane Farrall, Greg O'Connor, Charlene Cullen and Katie Lyon) for informative sessions covering:

Texthelp Read&Write 4 GOLD for Mac: An introduction

Wednesday 26th October at 2.15pm AEST

Texthelp Read&Write 10 GOLD: An introduction

Thursday 27th October at 2.15pm AEST

Thursday 24th November at 2.15pm AEST

Thursday 15th December at 2.15pm AEST

Boardmaker Basics: Creating print activities

Thursday 25th October at 2.15pm AEST

Wednesday 14th December at 2.15pm AEST

Boardmaker Plus Basics: Making talking books and other onscreen activities

Monday 21st November at 2.15pm AEST

Boardmaker Studio

Wednesday 30th November at 2.15pm AEST

Clicker 5: An introduction

Wednesday 16th November at 2.15pm AEST

Thursday 8th December at 2.15pm AEST

Sessions are free of charge and run for approximately 45 minutes. To register or to see more information visit Spectronics Online Training website: <http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/onlinetraining> , or contact Eliza Bale on elizab@spectronics.com.au .

Stepping into... Summer 2011/12

Stepping into...is a unique internship program designed to assist students with disability enter their chosen profession.

The program has been designed to give you, the student, an opportunity to understand the inner workings of a professional organisation, and gain valuable work experience. This is an important opportunity to showcase your talents and gather experience, information and skills to better assist you to enter the competitive marketplace of employment.

Successful applicants will have the opportunity to complete a paid work experience program at one of the participating organisations. You will also be required to participate in a student briefing at the commencement of the program. The participating organisations are pioneers within their field and are taking a leadership role in providing opportunities to students with disability to access internship opportunities.

During the Summer 2011/12 semester break opportunities are available for students in the following disciplines:

Law

Accounting

Finance

Marketing

Communications

Human Resources (HR)

Information Technology (IT)

Public Policy

To be eligible for this program, you must have a disability and be enrolled in your final or penultimate year of a relevant degree at a recognised tertiary institution. You must be able to commit to the entire program. You must also have the right to work in Australia.

Any information about your disability will be removed prior to sending your application to the participating organisations. Each organisation is responsible for selecting and notifying candidates for interview and for offering candidates a position in their program.

Download the application form from: <http://www.and.org.au/content/view/443/23/>

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Scholarships:

Applications to the 2011 Print Disability Scholarship and Seniors Grant will close Friday 25 November!

Don't miss out on your opportunity to win a prize in our Scholarship Program or Seniors Grant.

Primary, secondary and tertiary students with a print disability are welcome to apply for the any prize in the Scholarship award collection, which includes the PEARL camera with Open Book Scanning software, PLEXTALK Pockets, and iZoom Screen Magnification and Speech software.

All applicants for the Seniors Grant will go in to the draw to win a ClearView+ Spectrum (full colour) CCTV with a 22" Flat Screen Monitor or ClearReader+ Book Reader!

Prizes will be drawn mid-December 2011 and all applicants will receive a voucher for 5% off your next purchase from Quantum.

<http://www.quantumrlv.com.au/2011-Scholarship-Program-and-Seniors-Grant>

The Vision Australia Further Education Bursary 2011

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. These aim to assist clients who would not otherwise be able to afford adaptive technology, and increase their ability to participate in further education. 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.

To apply for a bursary, applicants need to:

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

Applications close 31 October 2011. Recipients are selected in December, equipment is purchased and delivered after proof of enrolment has been provided (about March 2012) and bursaries are presented at ceremonies in May. See www.visionaustralia.org/bursary for the application form and information, or contact Max Bini on 1300 84 74 66 or max.bini@visionaustralia.org.

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Studies and Research:

To gain, retain and retrain: the role of post-school education for people with a disability

Cain Polidano, Ha Vu

Helping people with disability participate in the labour market is one way to enhance their economic and social well-being. However, low levels of education among people with disability generally can hinder their participation. Using data

from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia survey, this study looks at the role of vocational education and training (VET) qualifications not just in labour market outcomes for people with disability but in improving their working conditions.

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2407.html>

Vocational education and training: the technicolour coat of Australia's education system - research overview

Georgina Atkinson

In June 2011, NCVER ran a forum 'Is VET worthwhile?', to bring together the suite of research from four programs of work conducted over three years (2008 - 2010). This paper draws on the themes that emerged from the research and the forum discussion. It finds that whether VET is worthwhile for the wide variety of people who access it - students, workers or employers - depends on who you are and why you use it.

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2438.html>

Australian vocational education and training statistics: student intentions 2011

This publication presents information about students' intentions to complete a vocational education and training (VET) course. The figures are derived from the Student Intentions Survey, which focuses on students enrolled to start a VET course at certificate I or higher in February 2011. Information about reasons for undertaking training, attitudes towards VET and influences on training choice are also collected.

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2425.html>

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Publication:

What do Employers think about Workers with a Disability?

This new study 'Employer perspectives on recruiting people with disability and the role of Disability Employment Services' shows that while employers generally agree that people with disability have a good attitude towards work, many continue to operate under the misconception that people with disability will be less productive.

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/ResearchStatistics/ProgEval/Documents/EmployerServicing2011.pdf>

Workplace attitudes prevent employment of people with disabilities

The findings of AHRI's new study on disability employment reveal that attitudes within Australian workplaces are a significant barrier preventing the employment of people with disabilities.

678 responses were received in the survey that ran during July and August 2011. The survey report is entitled 'Recruiting people with a disability: An employer perspective'.

<http://resource.ahri.com.au/archive/e6ba70fc093b4ce912d769ede1cee8a8>

To gain, retain and retrain: the role of post-school education for people with a disability

Helping people with disability participate in the labour market is one way to enhance their economic and social well-being. However, low levels of education among people with disability generally can hinder their participation. Using data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia survey, this study looks at the role of vocational education and training (VET) qualifications not just in labour market outcomes for people with disability but in improving their working conditions. Whether post-school qualifications lessen the impact of disability onset is also examined. Completing a VET qualification is found to improve the rates of full-time employment in the longer term for those previously out of work or working part-time. With this comes greater financial independence.

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2407.html>

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New Resources:

Beyond the School Gate TAS

The transition from school to adult life can present young people with disability and their families with a whole range of opportunities and challenges.

The guide Beyond the School Gate aims to provide some insight into the types of options that are available. It aims to help young people, their parents/guardians and support persons to work out the puzzle of government-funded programs and services.

This resource uses stories from individuals to give an idea of what a typical day may be like in a range of post-school settings, such as further education, training, employment and community access services. It also provides useful tips, space to jot down your notes on the journey and lots of relevant web links.

The stories will point you in the right direction, but to find out more detail, as well as the contacts for local providers, you will need to access the key websites or to follow up with the services directly.

<http://beyondtheschoolgate.com.au/>

New DVD for parents

A new DVD, Stronger Siblings, developed by Siblings Australia and presented by Andrew Daddo, will be launched in Adelaide on November 3rd. This DVD will assist parents, and those who work with families, to understand the experience of brothers and sisters of a child with disability and how to support them. Parents and siblings share their stories and, together with professionals, explore a number of issues. It is an ideal resource for organisations to use with groups of parents, especially given the DVD includes notes to facilitate further discussion.

Whilst the DVD will not be posted out until after the launch, an order form is available at http://www.siblingsaustralia.org.au/ps_resources.asp . Also, you will be able to view a short excerpt of the DVD on the Siblings Australia website in the near future.

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Media Releases:

Better services for university students start next year

PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

URL: http://www.deewr.gov.au/ministers/evans/media/releases/pages/article_111011_145807.aspx

SNIPPET: Students at Australia's universities will have access to better quality services and amenities when they return to campus next year, following the passage of the Higher Education Support Amendment (Student Services and Amenities) Bill. From next year, countless campus services which were stripped of funding under the former Coalition Government will start to be rebuilt. A key feature of the new arrangements is that students can benefit from better student services while they are at university but defer payment of the fee through the HECS system until they are earning a decent income.

Digital world widens for people with disability in the South - Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

PORTFOLIO: Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

URL: http://www.janmclucas.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2011/pages/jmc_m_digitalworld_25october2011.aspx

SNIPPET: , Member for Kingston. The Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers, Senator Jan McLucas, and Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth, today visited Noarlunga Library to test drive the new technology that is giving people with print disability in the South greater access to library materials. Almost one fifth of the Australian population are unable to read standard print information this includes people who are blind, have low vision or people with a physical or learning disability, Senator McLucas said.

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