
In this Disability Education and Employment News, we have information on the Equity & Diversity Officer (Disability) position at UTS, the Vision Australia Further Education Bursary 2011 and the NDS Employment Forum. 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:
Special schools a fast track to prison – Australian
18/08/2010
Justine Ferrari

BOYS are being segregated from the mainstream school system for behavioural and emotional disorders at about six times the rate of girls.

A study by Macquarie University researchers has found a disturbing pattern suggesting specialist behaviour schools may act as a "school-to-prison pipeline", in which students do not return to mainstream classes but enter juvenile justice centres.

Based on an analysis of data from NSW, which has the most transparent education system, the study, to be published next month in the journal Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood, examined the diagnoses of students enrolled in
special classes and schools.
It found boys and girls were almost equally represented in intensive English classes for new migrant children, and that
the diagnosis of physical disabilities such as hearing and vision impairment, or moderate to severe intellectual disability,
has remained relatively stable over the past decade.
For the rest of the article go to

Over 350 attend autism summit – Sunshine Coast Daily
17/08/2010
Bianca Clare
LIVING with autism can sometimes feel as though the world is upside down.
More than 350 people attended a national summit on the Sunshine Coast yesterday to discuss ways to turn perspectives
around.
Autism is a disorder of neural development which affects a person’s social and language skills, characterised by
restricted and repetitive behaviour.
A 2007 study found that one in 160 children aged between six and 12 has an autism spectrum disorder.
Autism Queensland boss Penny Beeston said one of the first steps towards equality should be to equip school teachers
with the skills to nurture children with special needs.
For the rest of the article go to

Options for special needs kids – Sydney Morning Herald
09/08/2010 Steve Dow
Luka, nearly 7, slips on his gumboots and stomps happily in puddles in his Drummoyne backyard on a Sunday morning.
He’s a lively, affectionate little boy who loves Harry Potter DVDs. His little brother Jasper, 3, is just that bit quicker,
answering questions before Luka can.

Luka has “high-functioning” autism, his mother, Marian O’Connell, explains while her husband, Julian, makes coffee.
Luka was diagnosed in kindy after a paediatrician missed the signs. He struggles academically in class.

He is in year 1 in a mainstream Catholic primary school, getting an hour’s special needs assistance from a teacher’s aide
each day, plus a few hours’ extra literacy coaching each week. In the long term, his parents want to find him a place in a
support class run by a special needs teacher within the campus of a mainstream public primary school, and then a
mainstream high school.

Such opportunities in NSW are severely limited but, Marian O’Connell argues, “it’s good for both him and [regular]
children to be exposed to a broad range of human experience”.

An explosion in the numbers of in children being diagnosed with autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and other
behavioural problems has fuelled an ideological battleground, at the heart of which are the children: should they be
educated together, or are children with “disabilities” and “special needs” best educated apart from “regular” children?
For the rest of the article go to

Welfare News:
Raising pension age 'will not work' – Sydney Morning Herald
19/08/2010
Adele Horin
RAISING the pension age from 65 to 67 will have only a limited impact on the employment rates of older workers, a
leading economist says.
This is because many Australians leave the workforce in their 50s and 60s and receive a disability pension or other
government payment.
Bob Gregory, professor of economics at the Australian National University, said 90 per cent of single people who take up
the age pension at 65 had previously received another payment - the disability pension, carer payment or Newstart Allowance, on average for six years.

For the rest of the article go to http://www.smh.com.au/national/raising-pension-age-will-not-work-20100818-12f8j.html?from=smh_sb

Real vision buried in the ballyhoo – Australian
14/08/2010
Mike Steketee
Ideas may be out of fashion in politics, but some surface in election policies

POLITICAL leaders used to be asked about their vision for the future but there doesn't seem to be much point any more. Maybe the vision thing doesn't crop up much in the focus groups from which politicians increasingly take their cues.


Assistive Technology News:

iPad goes under the gauntlet at universities this fall
By Chris Foresman | Last updated 25 days ago

The iPad is about to have its academic chops put to the test this fall in a number of programs around the country. Colleges and universities are looking to adopt the iPad as a collaborative tool, a standardized mobile device to integrate into curriculums, and, in some cases, even a cost-saving device.

Oklahoma State University plans to begin a pilot iPad program this fall, with students in certain courses offered by the School of Media and Strategic Communications and the Spears School of Business receiving iPads to use with those courses. The program will be used to determine how effective iPads can be as tools to enhance learning as well as how such mobile devices can be integrated into the workplace.

"This limited pilot will be focused on fields of study where we believe we can best determine the higher education value of the iPad," Bill Handy, visiting assistant professor in OSU's School of Media and Strategic Communications, told Macsimum News. "We will evaluate the academic enhancement to the courses, how the iPad and its specific apps and web-based tools can be integrated in this capacity, and perhaps most importantly, how the integration of these mobile tools can expand the tactical abilities of students as they enter the workforce."

For the rest of the article go to http://arstechnica.com/apple/news/2010/07/ipad-goes-under-the-gauntlet-at-universities-this-fall.ars

In e-reader accessibility race, new Kindle, iPad in front
By Jacqui Cheng | Last updated 10 days ago

E-readers are becoming increasingly popular, due in part to plummeting prices and the growing availability of books in various digital formats. One area where these companies are notoriously weak, however, is accessibility—and we’re not talking about the Internet kind.

One of the big strengths of digital books should be their easy support for technologies like screen reading and large print, tools that can help the visually impaired. But as it turns out, such progress has been slow and unsatisfactory for many users.

The Kindle's current text-to-speech controls The accessibility problem was highlighted when several universities recently settled a lawsuit with the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) and the American Council of the Blind (ACB). At issue was the schools' plan to deploy the Kindle DX among students, thanks to accessibility limitations on the device.

More recently, the US Department of Justice and the US Department of Education wrote an open letter to university presidents this June, warning that they should avoid requiring the use of e-book devices in a classroom setting for the same reasons.

For the rest of the article go to http://arstechnica.com/gadgets/news/2010/08/for-visually-impaired-most-e-readers-barely-measure-up.ars
Opinion:
Abbott's welfare plans raise questions of fairness – Sydney Morning Herald
17/08/2010
Philip Mendes
Opposition Leader Tony Abbott flagged a review of welfare at the weekend, saying there's no such thing as a "free lunch". He has also talked about welfare recipients giving up payments for 12 months if they were guaranteed a job, banning the dole for people under 30, or alternatively placing time limits on the dole that would require all the unemployed to relocate to centres of high job growth to find work or lose their payments, or requiring job seekers to accept job offers even if they involved more than two hours of travel.
Currently, 11.5 per cent of young Australians aged 15-24 are looking for work, double the national average. While this is something that should be tackled, Abbott's approach raises many questions.
We would like to ask Abbott how he proposes to guarantee jobs for all those young Australians. Will they be offered government positions, or alternatively will full subsidies be provided to private sector employers? And how will this scheme be funded given the Coalition has promised to reduce unnecessary government spending, and restore the budget to surplus?

Jobs
Equity & Diversity Officer (Disability) position at UTS Equity & Diversity Unit
As the Equity and Diversity Officer (Disability) you will be a key member of the Workforce Diversity team of the Equity and Diversity Unit, focused primarily on contributing to the implementation of the UTS Disability Action Plan.
With your strong interpersonal skills and understanding of challenges for people with a disability, you will be able to build relationships quickly with a wide range of equity stakeholders internal and external to UTS. Your excellent written communication skills will be essential for producing reports, crafting communications and organising working groups.
The Workforce Diversity team's role is to develop and implement innovative staff equity programs and policies covering disability, Indigenous employment, gender equity, cultural diversity and LGTBI programs. Utilise your existing knowledge and skills in policy, project management and strategy in contributing to the work of the team.
You will also have the opportunity to contribute to a range of other activities in the Unit including providing assistance to UTS students and staff in relation to equal opportunity and equity-related grievance issues.
For more information go to http://www.jobs.uts.edu.au/job/job_details.cfm?id=509461&from

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

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

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

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

Educating for Human Rights, Peace and Intercultural Dialogue
4th - 6th November 2010
The International Human Rights Education Conference "Educating for Human Rights, Peace and Intercultural Dialogue" will be held at UWS Parramatta Campus. Please find attached an invitation– and check out the website for more information: www.humanrightseducationconference2010.com.au

Pathways 10 2010 Conference
Tuesday 30 November - Friday 3 December
**NSW Events:**  
**Children and Young Peoples Mental Health School – Link Conference**  
The 2010 NSW DET, Catholic Schools Office, Broken Bay Diocese & NSCCAHS Children and Young Peoples Mental Health School – Link Conference will be held at Kariong Mountains High School on Thursday 16th December 2010. 
The Conference will have specialist keynote speakers addressing emerging trends and workshops showcasing successful evidence based mental health programs for schools.  
The theme of the conference will be:  
Caring, Connecting and Collaborating  
The workshops focus on supporting students with complex mental health and related issues. The conference is targeted towards staff involved in supporting students with high support needs.  
The content will also be of interest to service providers who work with schools or provide services to children, young people and their families who experience mental health issues.  
The Conference dates and venue is:  
Thursday 16th December 2010  
Kariong Mountains High School  
NSW DET Staff contact:  
Daniel Hayes, Principal - North Gosford Learning Centre: mob.0409 839 092 phone 02 43232800  
NSW Health Staff contact:  
Debbie Pilkington - School Link Coordinator, Northern Sydney Central Coast Health phone: 02 4304 7878  
Catholic Schools Office Diocese Broken Bay Contact: Elizabeth Douglas – Primary School Counsellor (Central Coast) mobile. 0418 403 668

**Scholarships:**  
**Vision Australia Further Education Bursary 2011**  
The Vision Australia Further Education Bursary 2011 for tertiary students with a vision impairment is now open for applications. The closing date is 29 October 2010. Please consider passing this information onto current and future domestic students who may not be aware of what a great opportunity it is for them to receive adaptive technology.  
Visit [wwwVISIONauSTRALIa.org/bursary](http://wwwVISIONauSTRALIa.org/bursary) for the application form and more information.  
Vision Australia’s Further Education Bursaries  
Each year Vision Australia awards financial bursaries to tertiary students who are blind or have low vision for the purchase of adaptive technology such as CCTVs, laptops, screen reading and magnification software.  
Vision Australia’s Further Education Bursaries aims to assist clients who would not otherwise be able to afford adaptive technology, thus increasing their ability to participate in further education.  
Since 1996, 191 bursaries have been awarded by Vision Australia to students studying a broad range of disciplines – from Arts and Music to IT and Business.  
Who is eligible?  
To be eligible, applicants need to:  
• Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Victoria, New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, the Northern Territory or Tasmania.  
• Be (or become) a client of Vision Australia  
• Demonstrate the need for financial assistance to purchase adaptive technology
• Be applying for, or enrolled in, a tertiary course graded Certificate IV or above
• Be available to attend a presentation ceremony in May.

How to apply?
To apply for a bursary, applicants need to:
• Complete an application form – download available from August at www.visionaustralia.org/bursary
• Have an adaptive technology assessment specifically for the Bursary with a Vision Australia consultant
• Provide some documentary evidence (outlined on the application form).

(Applications are treated in the strictest confidence.)

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

For more information contact:
Max Bini
Tertiary Education Consultant
Max.Bini@visionaustralia.org

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

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